THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY

A RECORD OF ITS HISTORY

1899-1924

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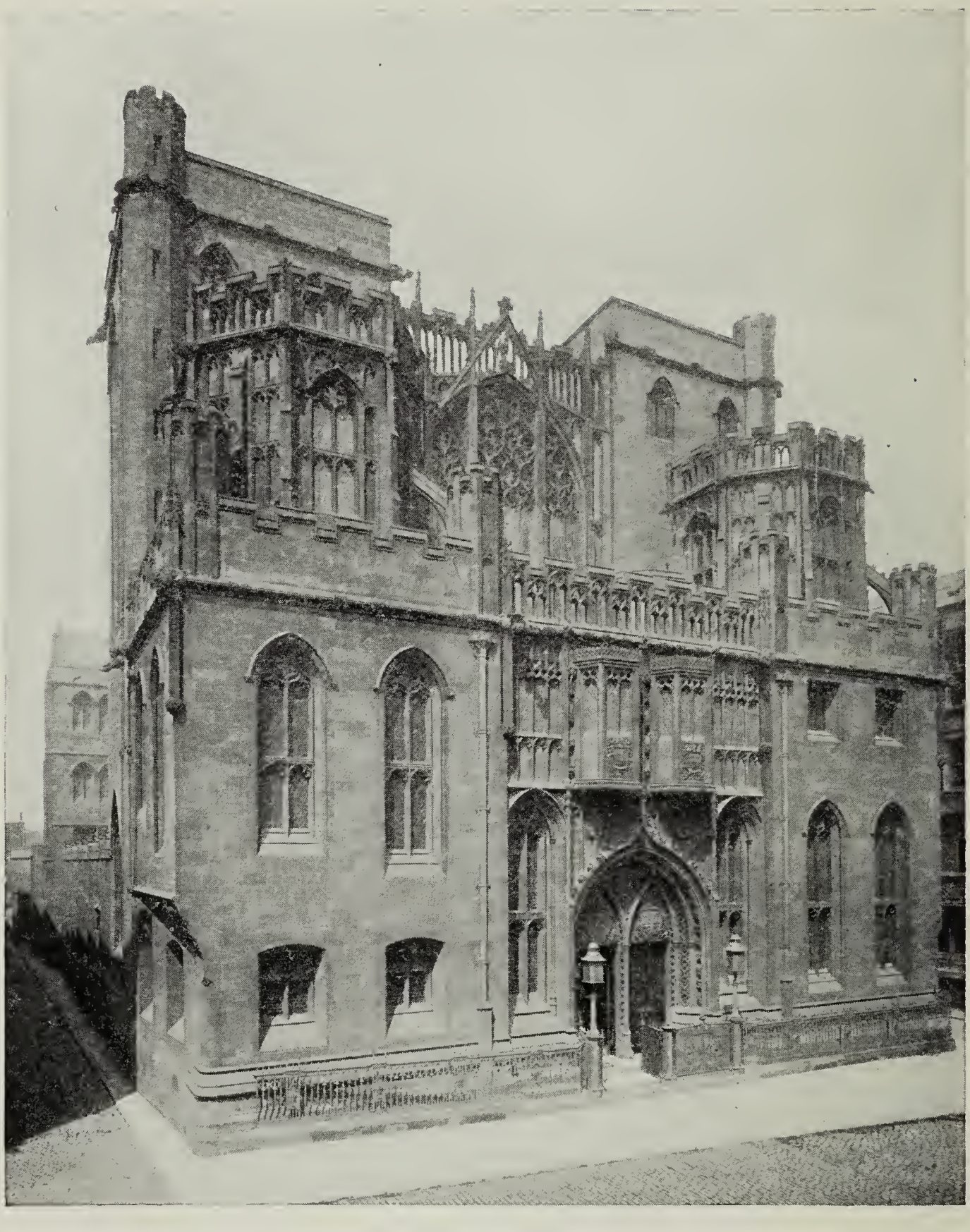

1. EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE LIBRARY

[*Frontispiece*

THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY MANCHESTER: 1899-1924. A RECORD OF ITS HISTORY WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BUILDING AND ITS CONTENTS. ILLUSTRATED WITH SIXTY-TWO VIEWS AND FACSIMILES

BY

THE LIBRARIAN

HENRY GUPPY, M.A., D.PH. ET LITT.

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PREFACE.

THE present volume will be found to contain a narrative of the genesis and growth of the institution with which it deals, followed by descriptions of its collections, and of the building in which they are so appropriately housed.

It has been written in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its formal dedication to public use, which took place on the 6th of October, 1899.

As we look back over those twenty-five years we are reminded of the many changes which have occurred, especially in the personnel of the governing body. Death has removed first one and then another, until, to-day, there survives of the nine trustees who were appointed by Mrs. Rylands in 1899, but one, in the person of Sir Evan Spicer, J.P.; and of the eighteen governors appointed at the same time but two remain in active association with the library, namely, Professor T. F. Tout, Litt.D., F.B.A., and Professor A. S. Peake, D.D. Whilst of those who took a prominently active part in the inaugural ceremony all have passed away, except Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., Sir William Vaudrey, J.P., and the Librarian.

If we may judge from the many encouraging testimonies which reach us from time to time, there has been throughout those twenty-five years a steady progression both in the efficiency and in the influence of the library. We venture to quote one short passage from a long appreciation of the library and its work, from the pen of that eminent scholar Dr. Carl Wessely of Vienna, which appeared as long ago as June, 1917, in one of the principal weekly organs of Austria, in which he gave it as his opinion, that: ". . . this library has in twenty years taken rank with such world-famed libraries as the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Vatican, and the Royal Libraries of

Vienna and Munich, which have at least a century of development behind them."

As an indication of the growth of the library's collections it needs only to be stated that in 1899 there were not more than 70,000 printed books and a handful of manuscripts upon its shelves, whereas, to-day, there are no fewer than 300,000 printed books and 10,000 manuscripts, amongst which are many of the world's most famous literary treasures.

In these days, when so many of the private libraries of the country are being scattered to the four winds, it may not be out of place to recall the immeasurable service which Mrs. Rylands' timely intervention rendered to scholarship, by saving from the disaster of dispersal that "most famous of all private libraries" the "Althorp Collection," which she acquired from Earl Spencer for a great sum of money. As soon as it was known that so many of the nation's priceless literary treasures had been, in this way, secured for all time against the risk of transportation, the public spirit which Mrs. Rylands had manifested was greeted with a chorus of grateful approbation.

It is not quite true, as is sometimes asserted, that the Spencer collection formed the nucleus of the John Rylands Library. Considerable purchases had been made, both by and for Mrs. Rylands, before it became known that Earl Spencer was willing to part with his famous library. It was, however, the crowning glory of Mrs. Rylands' scheme, and by its acquisition Manchester was invested with a distinction enjoyed by few other cities.

It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the new library received the hearty welcome of the scholars of the country, and sprang as if by magic into a high place among the great libraries, not only of this country but of the world.

As we have already stated elsewhere, the duty of the library to scholarship has been recognized throughout the twenty-five years of its activities. The Governors, with a liberal interpretation of their responsibility to learning, have realized that whilst it is their primary duty carefully to preserve and to build up the collections entrusted to their care, yet the real importance of such a library rests, not upon the number or the rarity of the works of which it is composed, but upon the use which is made of them. It was inevitable that the possession of such an inheritance of literary treasures should cause the library

to become a place of pilgrimage for the lover of rare books, as well as for those who have given themselves to the service of learning. But from the first it has been the steadfast aim of the Governors to make it an efficient working library for students, and with that end in view they have developed the collections along lines which have already been fruitful of good results, and as a consequence the library has quickly developed into an admirable laboratory for historical and literary investigation.

This policy of administration has been abundantly justified, for one of the outstanding features of the use made of the library during the short period of its history is the large amount of original research which has been conducted within its walls, by students not only from the home universities, but also by scholars from distant parts of the world.

The volume is illustrated by a number of views of the building, and of facsimiles of pages from some of the most noteworthy of the printed books and manuscripts which have helped to make the library famous. A number of these are here reproduced for the first time, notably several early printed books of which no other copies are known to exist. Notes describing the works, from which these facsimiles are drawn, have been prefixed to the volume, in the hope that they may add to its interest and usefulness.

MANCHESTER
September 10, 1924

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6. Portrait of George John, Second Earl Spencer, Founder of the Althorp Library 59

7. The Early Printed Book-room 65

8. The "St. Christopher" Block-print. 1423 66

*** The earliest known piece of European printing to which an indisputable date is attached, and of which no other copy is known.

9. A Page from the "Biblia Pauperum." About 1450 67

*** The "Biblia Pauperum" or "Bible for the Poor" consists of a series of pictures, printed from wood-blocks during the second quarter of the fifteenth century, probably in Germany. The scheme of the work is to represent by means of pictures, each of which is divided into three compartments, a scene from the life of Christ, in the centre, with prefigurations, or types, from the Old Testament on either side, accompanied by rhyming verses and texts, with the object of familiarising the illiterate with the principal events of the Bible.

The scenes illustrated in the facsimile are: "The translation of Enoch," "The Ascension of Our Lord," "Elijah received up into Heaven."

10. A Page from the First Printed Bible. [1456?] 68

*** This Latin Bible was amongst the first productions of the printing-press in Europe, and the earliest of any size that has survived to the present day.

The first copy to attract attention was one in the library of Cardinal Mazarin, to which fact it owes its popular name of "Mazarin Bible." To bibliographers it is known as the "42-line Bible," from the number of lines to a printed column, to distinguish it from another one printed about the same time, and styled for a similar reason the "36-line Bible."

The city of Mainz has been generally recognized as the place where both Bibles were printed, although there is still a difference of opinion upon the point.

There is also a difference of opinion with regard to the printer. The name of Johann Gutenberg has been suggested by some authorities; by others it is assumed that Johann Fust, to whom Gutenberg was originally indebted for financial assistance, and his son-in-law, Peter Schoeffer, were mainly responsible for it.

To face Page

The book itself contains no definite information as to the names of the printers, the place of printing, or the date, but from the evidence of a note left by the rubricator of a copy preserved in the "Bibliothèque Nationale," Paris, it is assumed that the work was completed sometime before August 24, 1456.

11. A Page of the Latin Edition of the "Biblia Pauperum" Printed by Albrecht Pfister at Bamberg. About 1461 69

*** The first type-printed book with illustrations, of which only one other copy is known.

It is printed in the same type as that employed in the printing of the 36-line Bible, which was also completed about 1461.

Works by this printer are of great rarity. Only four books and part of a fifth are known to exist in this country, and all of these are in this library.

12. "Death-bed Prayers," Printed by William Caxton. About 1484 . . 70

*** Of this broadside, or single sheet, printed only on one side of the paper, no other copy is known to exist.

From the language of the two prayers it seems evident that they were intended for use at the bed-side of a dying person. They were probably printed in this portable form for priests, and others, to carry about with them.

13. A Page of Caxton's "Golden Legend." About 1483 71

*** The "Golden Legend" was the largest and most extensive of all Caxton's literary and typographical undertakings.

The translation, which was Caxton's own work, was made from the French version by Jean de Vignay. The original Latin work was compiled by Jacobus de Voragine, archbishop of Genoa from 1292 to 1298.

The work may be said to contain the earliest portion of the Bible printed in English, comprising, as it does, a fairly literal translation of nearly the whole of the Pentateuch, and a great part of the Gospels, mixed up with a good deal of mediæval gloss, under the guise of the lives of Adam, Abraham, Moses, the Apostles, and others. It must have been extensively read by the people, or to the people, long before the days of Tindale and Coverdale, since numerous editions were printed during the latter years of the fifteenth and the early part of the sixteenth century.

The reading in Genesis iii. 7 of "breeches" for "aprons," which is generally thought to be peculiar to the "Genevan version" of the Bible of 1560, and has led to its popular designation "Breeches Bible," was anticipated by Caxton in this volume.

14. A Page of "The History of Blanchardin and Eglantine." Printed by William Caxton. About 1489 72

*** Of this volume, printed in what is known as Caxton's No. 6 type, no other copy is known to exist. It is unfortunately imperfect.

From the prologue we learn that the romance was translated from the French by Caxton himself, at the request of Margaret, Duchess of Somerset.

15. A Page of "The Four Sons of Aymon." Printed by William Caxton. About 1489. 73

*** Of this volume, printed in what is known as Caxton's No. 6 type, no other copy is known to exist. It is unfortunately imperfect.

Of this favourite mediæval rhythmical romance, Caxton evidently made his translation from a French prose text, possibly that printed at Lyons, in 1480.

To face Page

16. A Page of the Aldine "Vergil". 1501 74

*** This edition of Vergil, printed at Venice by the famous scholar-printer, Aldus Manutius, marks a real innovation in the art of typography.

The *italic* type, which was employed for the first time in the printing of this volume, is said to be a close copy of the handwriting of Petrarch, and was cut for the printer by Francesco da Bologna, who has been identified by one authority with the painter, Francesco Raibolini, better known as Francia.

The new type was a great success, as it enabled the printer to compress into the small dainty format, by which the press of Aldus is best remembered, as much matter as the purchaser could heretofore buy in a large folio. The public welcomed the innovation, which not only meant reduction in size, but also considerable reduction in price, with the result that the wide diffusion of books, and the popularisation of knowledge, at which Aldus aimed was attained.

The copy from which the reproduction is made is on vellum, and is illuminated by hand.

17. The Bible Room 75

18. A Page of an Early Wiclifite "New Testament" Manuscript. About 1400 76

*** The earlier version of the Wiclifite Bible was partly made by Wiclif himself, and partly prepared under his supervision by Nicholas de Hereford, and others. It was completed about 1382, two years before Wiclif's death. It gave so literal a rendering of the Latin Bible, from which it was translated, as to be in many places obscure. Soon after its completion a thorough revision was undertaken, which was carried to a successful issue by John Purvey, the friend of Wiclif's last days.

19. A Page From William Tindale's "Pentateuch." [1530-34.] . . . 77

*** This volume containing the five books of Moses was the first portion of the Old Testament to be translated directly from the original Hebrew, and printed in English.

The translator, William Tindale, having completed and issued his version of the New Testament in 1525 or early in 1526, settled down to the study of Hebrew, in order to qualify himself for the translation of the Old Testament. In 1527 he took refuge in "Marburg," where in the intervals of study he found time to prepare his two most important controversial works, which constituted his manifesto, and early in 1530 his translation of the "Pentateuch" made direct from the Hebrew, with the aid of Luther's German version, was ready for circulation.

There are grounds for believing the place-name of "Marburg" or "Marlborow," which is found in the imprint to indicate the place of printing, to be fictitious, being adopted in order to conceal the place of printing which was not improbably Antwerp.

This copy has the marginal glosses intact. With few exceptions these are found to be cut away, as ordered by the Bishop, at least the "most pestilent" of them. The reason for the order is obvious from the gloss on the page reproduced.

20. Title-page of "Coverdale's," the First Printed Complete English Bible. 1535 77

*** The translation was made not from the original Greek and Hebrew, but from the Vulgate and other versions, by a Yorkshireman, Miles Coverdale, afterwards Bishop of Exeter. Nothing definite is known as to the place of printing, but certain features point to Zurich and to Christopher Froschover.

There is a curious reading in Jeremiah iii. 22, where "Balm in Gilead" is rendered "Triacle at Galaad."

The Psalter in the "Book of Common Prayer" is substantially the same as that printed in the "Coverdale Bible" of 1535, and actually the same as that printed in the "Great Bible" of 1539.

To face Page

21. TITLE-PAGE OF THE "GREAT BIBLE." 1539 78

*** The first edition of the "Great Bible," so called from its size, and from the fact that it is referred to, in the Injunctions issued to the clergy by Thomas Cromwell in 1538, as: "the hole byble of the largyest volume" ordered to be "set vp in sum conuenient place wythin the said church that ye haue cure of, where-as your parishoners may most cōmodiously resorte to the same and reade it."

It is a revision by Coverdale of "Matthew's Bible" of 1537, by the aid and with the assistance of Thomas Cromwell. It was printed partly at Paris and partly at London.

The "Psalter" in the "Book of Common Prayer" is the same as that printed in this Bible.

22. TITLE PAGE OF THE "AUTHORISED VERSION" OF THE BIBLE. 1611 . . 79

*** The first edition of "King James's Bible," commonly called the "Authorised Version."

The idea of this new translation was due to John Rainolds, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, the Puritan leader at the Hampton Court Conference, 1604. The King took up the proposal warmly, and its achievement was due to his royal interest and influence. The translators numbered about fifty, and were divided into six companies, each company being responsible for a certain section of the Scriptures.

23. A PAGE FROM LUTHER'S FIRST "NEW TESTAMENT." September, 1522 . . 79

*** The woodcuts illustrating the Apocalypse are attributed to Lucas Cranach. In this (September) issue the Dragon and the Scarlet Woman are each depicted wearing a tiara in the manner of the Popes. This gave such offence that in the second issue of December, 1522 (of which there is a copy also in the library) the offending illustrations were cancelled, and an ordinary crown was substituted for the tiara in both instances.

24. A PAGE OF "BATRACHOMYOMACHIA." PRINTED AT BRESCIA. ABOUT 1474. 80

*** This is the only known copy of the first Greek text ever printed. It has been assigned by Robert Proctor, on typographical grounds, to the press of Thomas Ferrandus of Brescia, of whose work very few examples are known.

The Greek text with the interlinear Latin translation is printed on the recto of each leaf, whilst the verso is uniformly reserved for the metrical version of C. Marsuppini.

25. A PAGE OF THE FIRST PRINTED EDITION OF BOCCACCIO'S "IL DECAMERONE." 1471 81

*** The first edition of "Il Decamerone" was printed at Venice in 1471, by a printer named Valdarfer. This is the only perfect copy extant, the rarity of which is attributed to its having formed part of an edition committed to the "bonfire of the Vanities" in 1497, by the Florentines, through the teaching of Savonarola.

It became famous in 1812, when, at the sale of the Duke of Roxburghe's library, it was sold to the Marquis of Blandford for the, at that time unprecedented, price of £2260. Emerson in one of his essays makes allusion to this incident in the words "at the tap of the auctioneer's hammer Boccaccio turned in his grave." It was in honour of this volume and its sale that the famous "Roxburghe Club" was founded.

26. TITLE-PAGE OF SHAKESPEARE'S "SONNETS." 1609 82

*** The first edition of Shakespeare's "Sonnets" was surreptitiously sent to the press by T. Thorpe. The licence for its publication was obtained on May 20, 1609, and the volume appeared in June, in which month Edward Alleyn (the founder of Dulwich College) paid 5d. for a copy, the same figure as appears in manuscript on the title-page of this one.

To face Page

27. Title-page of "Ratsei's Ghost." Second Part. About 1605. . . 83

*** This pamphlet, of which the only known copy is in the Library, is of literary as well as bibliographical interest. The highwayman Gamaliel Ratsey was notorious in the eastern counties from 1603 to 1605, in which year he was hanged at Bedford. An account of his "Life and Death" exists in an unique pamphlet in the Bodleian; the John Rylands pamphlet is a sequel, and gives a further instalment of his adventures, largely imaginary. In it we read how on one occasion, after fleecing a company of travelling players, he advised the leader to go to London, where his talents would be more profitable, and where he might rival a great actor (probably Burbage) in the part of Hamlet. Ratsey concludes his advice with what seems to be a sarcastic reflection on Shakespeare, who had bought New Place, at Stratford, out of his professional earnings, some years ago: "When thou feelest thy purse well lined, buy thee some place or Lordship in the Country, that growing weary of playing, thy mony may there bring thee to dignitie and reputation."

28. Title-page of Henry VIII.'s "Assertio Septem Sacramentorum." 1522 88

*** This is the work written by Henry VIII. against Luther, for which he received the title "Defensor Fidei."

Three copies printed on vellum are known. The one under description was a presentation copy to Louis II., King of Hungary, and bears the inscription in Henry's handwriting "Regi Daciae." On the binding are the arms of Pope Pius VI.

29. The Glasgow "Aeschylus" of 1795, bound by Roger Payne . . . 89

*** In this volume are contained the original drawings of John Flaxman, executed expressly for the first Countess Spencer, in illustration of the tragedies of Aeschylus. These reveal a freedom, yet delicacy of touch, of which the plates engraved after them fail to give any adequate idea.

The binding forms a worthy covering to the book, being the recognized masterpiece of Roger Payne, whose work at the end of the eighteenth century entitles him, in the opinion of book-lovers, to the highest position amongst the followers of his craft in this country.

30-31. Two Pages of a Trilingual "Kur'ân," in Arabic, Persian and Old Turki Persian MS. 14th-15th Century 94-95

32. Papyrus Roll. Demotic and Greek. a.d. 29 96

*** This document of the time of our Lord shows the common writing material, and the form of Greek script in use at the time. Papyrus was employed in Egypt from a very early date as a material for writing, whence its use gradually spread to neighbouring countries. It was prepared from the papyrus plant, which in ancient times grew in abundance beside the Nile, by cutting the pith of the stem into thin longitudinal strips. These were placed side by side, and another layer of strips laid on them at right angles. The layers were then united by means of pressure and moisture, adhesion being furthered probably by the glutinous character of the pith, or by the addition of glue. When dried and polished the sheets were then ready for use. The original strength of the papyrus thus prepared for writing is estimated to have been about the same as that of modern paper. Owing to its want of durability any document liable to much handling could not survive for more than a limited period. On such perishable material the books of the New Testament must have been originally written, so that the disappearance of the autograph copies through constant use, apart from other dangers incidental to their circulation, need not occasion any surprise.

The upper portion of the papyrus exhibited, which relates to the sale of a house in the Faiyûm district of Egypt, is written in the demotic form of Egyptian writing, whilst the lower part is in the current Greek script, of a character similar to that which is likely to have been used by the writers of the New Testament.

To face Page

33. Two Pages of "The Odes and Psalms of Solomon." Syriac MS. 16th Century 97

*** The odes consist of a collection of 42 hymns, probably dating from the end of the first century, known to the early Christian Church, as is proved by the quotations and comments in the third century gnostic book "Pistis Sophia," and a short extract in the "Institutes" of Lactantius.

The present MS. from which the "Odes" were recovered, was found in the East by Dr. Rendel Harris, in 1909. It has excited such world-wide interest since its discovery that quite a library of literature has grown up around it.

The "Odes" were not written by Solomon. Their author or authors may have placed over them the superscription, in order to gain currency for them under the shelter of a great name of the past.

34. Two Pages of the Earliest Vellum Codex of the "Odyssey." About 290 a.d. 98

*** This manuscript takes rank amongst the earliest examples of Vellum books which have come down to us.

35. St. John from a "Greek Gospels" of the 11th Century 99

*** The miniature, which is reproduced from a Byzantine copy of the Gospels, representing St. John, follows the Greek tradition, which says that he dictated his Gospel to a disciple named Prochorus. In the upper right-hand corner of the picture is a hand coming forth from a cloud to indicate the presence and activity of the Divine Spirit. St. John stands in the centre, with his left hand raised towards that divine manifestation, in order to receive the heavenly inspiration, and his right hand stretched down towards Prochorus, who is seated at the left hand and writing the opening words of the Gospel: "Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος."

36. The Obverse of a Sumerian Tablet from the Temple of Drehem. About 2400 b.c. 100

*** This tablet has twelve columns of about 38 lines each. The last column on the reverse side sums up the whole tablet as a record of barley given in payment to men, children (male and female), and slaves, during the thirteen months of the 3rd year of the reign of Bur Sin, the 3rd King of the Ur dynasty, circa 2400 b.c. It may be described as one of the Temple ledgers.

37. An Indian Painting. Portrait of the Mogul Emperor Jahangar. 17th Century 102

38. An Indian Painting. Portrait of a famous Mullah. 17th Century . 103

*** Executed by a painter at the court of one of the Mogul Emperors.

39. A Page from the "Trier Psalter." 9th Century 104

*** The Latin Psalter from which this page has been reproduced was written in Germany, in the early part of the ninth century, and is a very fine example of the Continental-Celtic style of art.

From a manuscript note, apparently coeval with the text, inserted in the margin of the calendar for May, we gather that the volume was originally in the possession of the abbey of St. Maximin of Trier. This note records how Ada, sister of Charlemagne, left much property to the monastery of St. Maximin, and on her decease was buried there. She also bequeathed a "copy of the Gospels written with gold and decorated with gold," which volume is still preserved in Trier in its Stadtbibliothek.

To face Page

40. A Page from the Emperor Otto's "Gospel Book." 10th Century . . 105

*** The copy of the Gospels in Latin, from which this page is reproduced, was written and illuminated for the Emperor Otto the Great (A.D. 912-973), whose portrait is here shown painted on small medallions with inscriptions around them. The style of the work indicates Cologne as the place of provenance.

41, 42. Two Pages from Joan of Navarre's "Psalter." About 1260 106-107

*** This beautiful French manuscript was written in Paris, probably by the same person who executed the manuscripts given by St. Louis to the Sainte Chapelle.

It belonged at one time to Joan of Navarre (Queen Consort of Henry IV., King of England), whose autograph appears on one of the blank leaves.

43, 44. Two Pages from a "Book of Hours" executed about 1430 for King Charles VII. of France 108

*** A note in this manuscript attributes it to the same hand that executed the famous "Bedford Missal."

45. A Page of the "Bible en Images." Middle 13th Century . . . 109

*** This beautiful French manuscript consists of a series of forty-eight full-page pictures illustrating stories from the Books of Genesis and Exodus, which are resplendent on a background of burnished gold. It was probably written in the South of France in the middle of the 13th century.

46. A Page from a "Book of Hours" of the School of Jean Foucquet. About 1490 A.D. 109

*** This manuscript was executed, probably in the South of France, by an artist of the school of Jean Foucquet, for Jacques Galliot de Gourdon de Genouillac, grand-écuyer de France and grand maître d'artillerie.

47. A Page of a Manuscript "Apocalypse." 14th Century 110

*** This manuscript consists of a series of ninety-six miniatures on twenty-four leaves, illustrating the scenes of the Apocalypse, with explanatory legends in Latin written in red and black. It was executed in Northern France about the middle of the 14th century.

48. Four Pages of a "Book of Hours," said to have belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots. Flemish. 15th Century 111

*** The pages reproduced show the manuscript notes said to be in the hand-writing of Mary, Queen of Scots.

It is a dainty little MS. of the size of the reproductions, and contains exquisite miniatures, and borders.

49. A Page from Lydgate's "Siege of Troy." About 1420 112

*** At the beginning of this stately English manuscript, measuring nearly 17 by 13 inches, and having upwards of seventy pages illuminated in the style of the one reproduced, is an illustration of the author presenting his work to King Henry V. At the end are the arms of William Carent of Carent's Court, in the Isle of Purbeck, who was born in 1344, and is known to have been alive in 1422. It was for him doubtless that the manuscript was written.

50. A Page from the "Colonna Missal." About 1517 113

*** This manuscript is said to have been executed for Cardinal Pompeo Colonna, who was elected a member of the Sacred College in A.D. 1517, and died in A.D. 1532.

The tradition handed down in the family was that the large illuminations, of which one is reproduced, were the work of Raphael. The view held to-day is that Guilio Clovio is the principal artist of the work.

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51. One of Two Jewelled Covers of a "Gospel Book," probably executed for the Abbey of St. Maximin at Trier. 10th-12th Cent. 114

*** In the centre of each is an ivory plaque, carved with three subjects in high relief; the Annunciation to the Virgin, the Nativity and the Baptism of Christ, the women at the Sepulchre, the Ascension of Christ, and the Descent of the Holy Ghost. The plaques are mounted in silver-gilt frames, divided into a number of panels, with *repoussé* figures of our Lord and saints in high relief, that at the bottom of one being Saint Eucharius, Archbishop of Trier, where the metal work of this cover was probably made. The intermediate panels are decorated with filigree work, and with jewels and pastes cut *en cabochon*. The ivories are German work of the tenth century, and the frames of the twelfth century.

52. A Jewelled Cover with Crystals at the Four Corners Enshrining Relics. 12th Cent. 115

*** The cover is of gilt metal, with filigree border studded with jewels, and in the centre an enamelled plaque of a figure of St. Andrew. The head is in metal, incised, the lines filled with red against a bluish-grey nimbus, the drapery enamelled, of different shades of blue and green, and borders of metal lined in with red. The background is plain gilt metal, engraved with round-headed arch, and the inscription "S. Andreas."

53. The Main Library 116

54. The East Cloister 117

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56. Section of the Main Library, Showing a Reading Alcove . . . 119

57. Gallery Corridor in the Main Library 120

58. Statue of John Rylands in the Main Library 121

59. Octagon at End of Corridor in New Wing 126

60. Librarian's Work-room 127

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62. A Section of one of the Four Floors of the Steel Stack . . . 129

3. INTERIOR VIEW OF THE MAIN LIBRARY

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THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

1899-1924.

TO the student and to the book-lover there is no more attractive place of pilgrimage in the North of England than the John Rylands Library, with its fortress-like towers, its great traceried windows, its cathedral-like atmosphere, and its priceless contents. It stands fitly in the busiest part of Manchester, that mighty centre of the cotton industry, which was the scene of the varied commercial enterprises and triumphs of the merchant whose name it perpetuates.

Manchester may well be described as "the mighty centre of the cotton industry," for that is the proud position she has occupied for several centuries. It is true that her reputation is mainly modern, for it was not until 1853 that she was invested with the dignity of a city, not until 1838 was she even incorporated as a borough, yet she has a history reaching back beyond the time of the Roman occupation.

Her commercial prosperity seems to have been assured from the time of the coming of the colony of Flemish weavers, who settled here in 1303, at the invitation of King Edward III.

These immigrant weavers soon brought their woollen manufacture into great repute, and for centuries it was the staple trade, until it was superseded by the introduction of vegetable cotton, "a kind of bombast or down, being a fruit of the earth growing upon little shrubs or bushes brought into this country from Smyrna, Cyprus, Acra and Sydon, but commonly called 'cotton wool'."

But it was not until the latter part of the eighteenth century that Manchester really became a place of commercial importance. In the latter part of that century an impulse was given to invention by the production of that splendid series of machines: the water-frame of

Richard Arkwright (in 1769), the spinning-jenny of James Hargreaves (in 1770), the mule-jenny of Samuel Crompton (in 1779), the steam-engine of James Watt (in 1769), the power-loom of Edmund Cartwright (in 1787), the self-acting-mule of Sharp Roberts and Company, and many others subordinate to them, the effects of which have been so amazing.

Another epoch of very considerable moment, not only to Manchester, but to the world at large, was marked by the opening in 1830 of the Manchester and Liverpool Railway, the first railway for goods and passengers, which was constructed by George Stephenson, and on which the now historic locomotive "The Rocket," at its trial trip, developed the amazing speed of twenty-nine miles an hour.

The development of this railway communication soon brought about a change in Manchester business life, until it has become mainly a general market, a mass of offices and warehouses for the distribution of the goods produced by the innumerable mills of South Lancashire. The manufacture itself is chiefly carried on in the neighbouring towns, which are almost as accessible as if they were suburbs of the city. The principal cotton mills are in fact at Oldham, Ashton, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, and Radcliffe, but the work of these places is to some extent specialised, dealing with cotton at one or another stage of its manufacture. One town can spin cotton but does not weave it, another weaves what has been spun elsewhere, whilst other places convert the cotton into "prints." Rochdale is noted for blankets, Nelson for flannelette, Oldham, besides spinning for other fabrics, weaves velvet. Other towns are the smithies of machinery for this busy area, whilst yet others prepare the chemicals used in the manufacture.

Manchester is unquestionably the mercantile metropolis for this vast industry, but there are other trades and handicrafts which must be regarded as amongst the permanent industries of the district. It is estimated that there are not less than seven hundred varieties of occupation in Manchester, supplying the numerous wants of a high, material civilization.

Any sketch of the enterprises of the city, however brief, would be imperfect without some reference to the Ship Canal, that most remarkable of the many bold schemes which Manchester has to her credit. It was opened by Queen Victoria in 1894, after eleven years of patient watching, fighting, and working on the part of its promoters,

at a cost of something like fifteen millions of money. The canal is thirty-five and a half miles long, and furnishes Manchester with a new route to the open sea, and entitles her to the designation "Port of Manchester." The consequent cheapening of transit to and from the sea has given new life and impetus to the trade of Manchester and the densely populated district of which she is the centre.

Not satisfied with the position of commercial eminence to which she had raised herself, this metropolis of the north, during the last three quarters of a century, has made determined efforts to place herself in the front rank of cities which are true cities—efforts in which she has been eminently successful. She has raised herself not only to university rank, but to a position of eminence among the universities of the world. She has provided herself with a technical college, which, in point of equipment, is unrivalled. The grammar schools and girls' high schools are amongst the largest and most efficient in the kingdom. Her elementary schools, secondary schools, and pupil teachers' training colleges are also remarkable for their efficiency, whilst there is no place in England, except Oxford and Cambridge, and possibly London, which is the centre of so much theological teaching, in consequence of the theological faculty of the University with its freedom from theological tests, and the nine theological institutions which have their seat here. It may be said, therefore, without fear of contradiction, that in the matter of provision for intellectual achievement, there is no city in the world, save perhaps London, which is better equipped.

Turning back the pages of history we find that one of the immediate results of the wise legislation which brought about the repeal of the corn-laws and gave to this country free trade, was that people began to find the struggle for existence a little easier. They felt that they could enjoy a little leisure, and that they had a right to ask the State to do something more than merely to protect life and property. This feeling found expression more than seventy years ago in a strong and enthusiastic agitation for educational reform. The agitation, which commenced in Manchester, spread throughout the country, and associations were formed with the object of making elementary education secular and free. It was not, however, until twenty years after the movement began that the main points of the Manchester scheme of education were embodied in the "Elementary Education Bill" of 1870, and became the law of the land.

Simultaneously with the development of public opinion in regard to education, and springing naturally from it, there arose a desire for the establishment of institutions calculated to have a more or less direct educational influence, which should resemble the contemplated education in being free, and should help to carry to a higher point and to riper perfection the instruction given in the schools. Taking advantage of the public feeling, Mr. William Ewart introduced into Parliament, in 1850, the first "Free Public Library Bill," which passed into law, and almost immediately it was put into operation in Manchester, where, in 1852, the first public library under the Act was established.

From that time forward libraries have gone on multiplying in and around the city, until to-day Manchester is justly regarded as one of the most important library centres in the world. Manchester libraries hold a very important place among the educational facilities which she offers to students, not only the student made, the ripe scholar, but also the student in the making.

"The better part of every man's education," said Sir Walter Scott, "is that which he gives to himself," and to that end every inducement is offered to the people of this great metropolis to improve their mental equipment, and to broaden their horizon, by taking advantage of the companionship of nobler spirits than their own which the libraries afford.

There are at the present time in the city not less than a million volumes to which readers have access, amongst which are many of the world's most famous literary treasures. Therefore it is not too much to say that the educational facilities of Manchester are now singularly complete. From the lowest rung of the educational ladder to the highest there is no gap, and many examples each year show what a career is open to character and ability.

It was customary, not many years ago, to separate culture from business and industry, with very questionable results. It was contended that great libraries, universities, and institutions of that character were well enough for such places as Oxford and Cambridge, for they constituted, so to speak, the means for turning out the distinctive products of those ancient centres. But Manchester existed to supply us with cotton, Leeds and Bradford with woollen goods, Newcastle with coal, Leicester with hosiery, and so on, therefore, so the unformulated argument ran, there is no need to trouble about supplying these places with

the instruments of the higher culture ; let us see that the drainage is all right, and the machinery good, and we can ignore the higher ends of life. The results, as we have said, were questionable. We had ugliness, sordidness, ignorance, vice, and the general reign of Mr. Gradgrind—poetry, art, culture, banished from his grimy domain. This condition of things could not last, and it was soon found, through the medium of the University Extension and other movements, that there was a demand for something besides machinery and trade returns, and many of the great industrial centres secured their local colleges, which, imperfect as they were at first, worked beneficent results in the education and character of large sections of our people.

The divorce of culture from trade is not only singularly unwise, it is opposed to the best traditions of European history. Venice was not simply an emporium, it was a centre of art, and the home of the finest printing the world has ever seen. The art of Venice was all the better for her industry, just as her industry was all the better for her art. Florence, Genoa, Nuremberg, Antwerp, and many another city of the Middle Ages, found it impossible to live by bread alone, and built up those grand monuments of culture and of art which excite our admiration and envy to-day. And thus it is that Manchester, aided by the benefactions of many of the citizens she has delighted to honour, and whose names have become household words, has raised herself to the proud position of being as great a centre of culture, as hitherto she has been of commerce.

The institution which has done more than any other to make Manchester famous in the world of letters is the John Rylands Library, whose twenty-fifth anniversary we commemorate in these pages. It owes its existence to the enlightened munificence of the late Enriqueta Augustina Rylands, the widow of John Rylands, by whom it was erected, equipped, and liberally endowed as a memorial to her late husband, whose name it perpetuates. It was formally dedicated to public use on the 6th of October, 1899.

As we look back over those twenty-five years, we cannot help feeling that this anniversary is an occasion which unites the past, the present, and the future in happy association. It awakens feelings of intense gratitude for a great bestowal, followed by a great bequest, which make the horizon of the future bright with hope, since, in accordance with the wish and intention of the founder, these benefactions

are being devoted to the encouragement of scholarship and original investigation. It is a great object lesson as to the worthy uses of wealth.

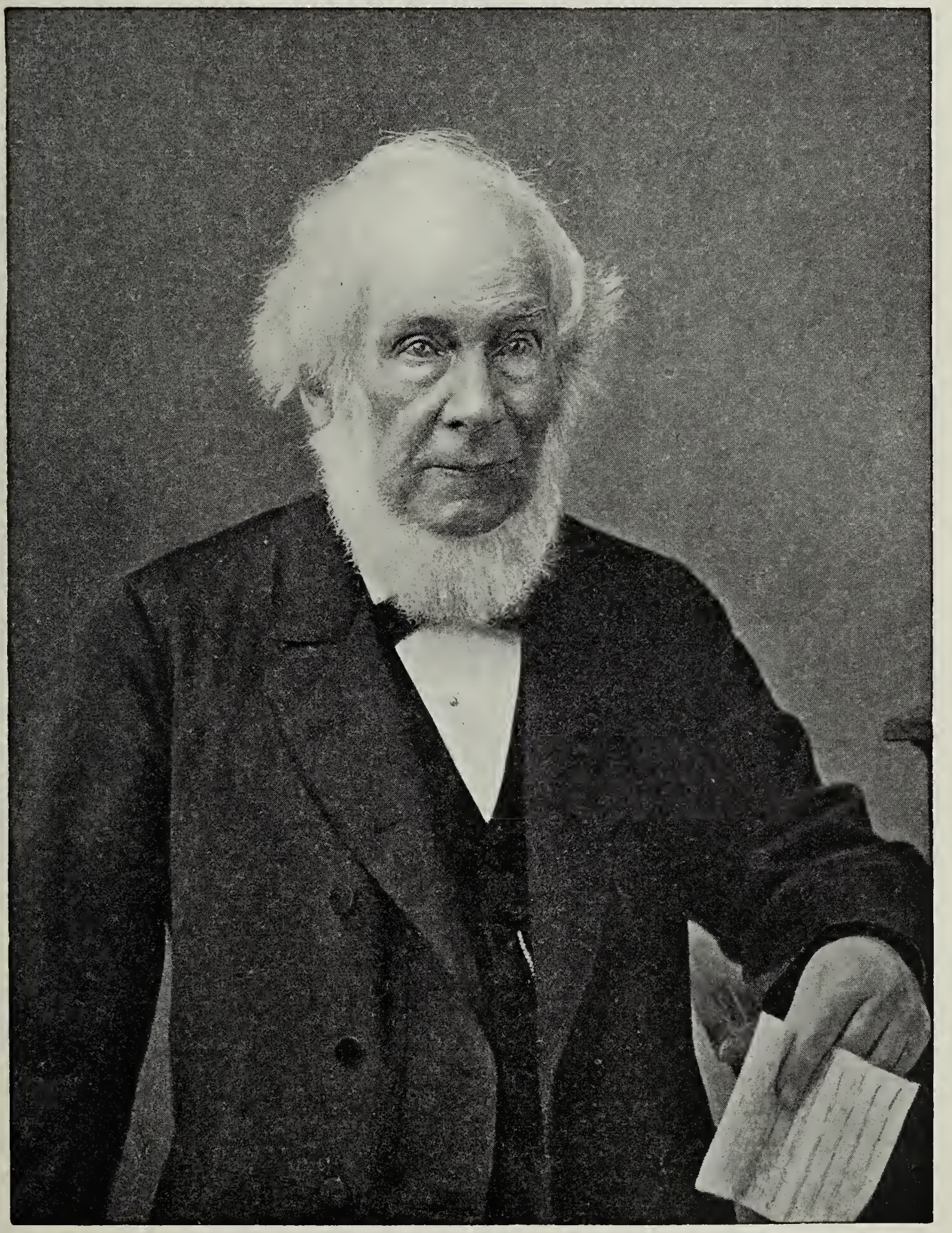
For that reason we venture briefly to review the history of the library from the date of its inception, in the hope that others, richly dowered as was the founder of this institution, who have not yet given thought as to the disposition of their wealth, may be induced to follow the example of Mrs. Rylands and dedicate their remaining years to some such worthy object, and by so doing invest their lives with a new and larger interest.

JOHN RYLANDS.

There is little glamour of romance about the life of the man to whose memory this library is dedicated. It was a life of hard work, frugality, and persistent endeavour, which enabled him to climb, step by step, to the almost unparalleled position which he ultimately attained in the Manchester trade.

Born at St. Helens on the 7th of February, 1801, and educated at the Grammar School of his native town, John Rylands early displayed an aptitude for trade. After carrying on a small weaving concern of his own, he entered into partnership, when barely eighteen years of age, with his two elder brothers, Joseph and Richard. Their father joined them in 1819, when the firm of Rylands & Sons was established, with its seat of operations at Wigan. John, the youngest partner, occupied himself in travelling for orders until 1823, when he opened a warehouse for the firm in Manchester, on the site of the present range of warehouses in New High Street. Business increased rapidly, and in 1825 the firm became merchants as well as manufacturers. Joseph and Richard retired from the business about 1839, and upon the death of their father, in July, 1847, John became sole proprietor of the undertaking.

John Rylands was endowed with that abounding energy combined with sagacity and financial ability which enabled him to turn to good account many an enterprise that other men had been unable to develop, and which they had regarded as worthless. By men of affairs, with whom he did business, he was looked upon as very astute and far-seeing. He took up one enterprise after another and made of each an upward step in his career, which was one of uninterrupted prosperity. In all his undertakings he was a tremendous worker. In the warehouse



4. JOHN RYLANDS

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he was the first to come and the last to go. Not only was he a great organiser and administrator, he was also a remarkable judge of men, and by surrounding himself with men of character and ability who were able to assist him in his numerous enterprises, he built up the immense business concern with which his name is still associated.

John Rylands was of a peculiarly retiring and sensitive disposition, and always shrank from public office of any kind, although he was not by any means indifferent to public interests. When the Manchester Ship Canal was mooted and there seemed doubt as to the ways and means for the enterprise, he took up £50,000 worth of shares, increasing his contribution when the project appeared again to be in danger. His charities were numerous but unobtrusive. He belonged to that sensible class, who believe that whatever a man has to give, should be used for the general good rather than to be distributed in small doles to individuals. He did not hesitate to relieve the pressing wants of individuals, but he preferred that his charity should go through organised channels. He liked, however, to select his own charities and to send his contributions unsolicited. He looked upon what professional philanthropists call "charity" as an expensive and demoralizing luxury. Among other benefactions he established and maintained orphanages, homes for aged gentlewomen, a home of rest for ministers of slender means, and he provided a town-hall, baths, library, and a coffee-house in Stretford, the village, near Manchester, in which he resided for so many years. His benefactions to the poor of Rome were so liberal as to induce the King of Italy to decorate him with the order of the Crown of Italy.

For many years he employed competent scholars to prepare special editions of the Bible and religious works, which he printed for free distribution. These include: The Holy Bible arranged in numbered paragraphs, a large quarto volume of 1272 pages, first issued in 1863, with an excellent topical index extending to 272 pages, and of which two subsequent editions were printed in 1878 and 1886 respectively. Diodati's Italian Bible, similarly arranged and indexed, was printed for distribution in Italy. Ostervald's French Testament, arranged on a similar plan, was also printed for distribution in France. "Hymns of the Church Universal, with prefaces, annotations, and indexes," a royal octavo volume of 604 pages, which was issued in 1885, is a selection from a collection of 60,000 hymns made

by Mr. Rylands, which is preserved in the library in thirty-four folio volumes, with a manuscript index extending to nine volumes of like dimensions.

Furthermore, Mr. Rylands took an interest in all that related to literature, but the absorbing cares of business necessarily prevented him from living as much as he would have wished among books. He was always ready, however, to extend his help and encouragement to students. He took a special interest in adding to the studies of the poorer Free Church ministers gifts of books which were beyond their own slender means to provide, but which were necessary to keep them in touch with the trend of modern religious thought, since, in many cases, they were stationed in rural districts remote from anything in the nature of a library.

When, therefore, upon the death of Mr. Rylands, which took place on the 11th of December, 1888, Mrs. Rylands found herself entrusted with the disposal of his great wealth, she resolved to commemorate the name of her husband, by dedicating to his memory an institution devoted to the encouragement of learning, which should be placed in the very heart of the city which had been the scene of his varied activities. She recalled the little library at Longford Hall, Stretford, which Mr. Rylands had watched over with so much care, and which in its time and measure had been of incalculable benefit to many a struggling minister. She also remembered how great an interest he had taken in theological studies, and accordingly resolved to establish a library in which theology should occupy a prominent place, where the theological student should find all the material necessary for his study and research. It was intended to be a religious foundation in the broadest sense of the words. There were to be no sectarian limitations to vex the students who should come to read, no "index expurgatorius" to exclude from the shelves any author who might happen to propound theological views contrary to those held by the founder. It may be said, therefore, that this library owes a good deal to Mrs. Rylands' loyalty to her husband's wishes.

INCEPTION OF THE LIBRARY.

With this idea of the library in view, Mrs. Rylands, in 1889, entered upon the collection of standard authorities in all departments of literature, and in the year 1890 the erection of the present building was commenced from the design of Mr. Basil Champneys.

5. MRS. RYLANDS

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The scheme was conceived in no narrow spirit. Mrs. Rylands was a woman of catholic ideas, and allowed the purpose she had in view to mature and fructify as time went on. It was fortunate that she proceeded in a leisurely manner, since various unforeseen circumstances helped to give a shape to the contemplated memorial, which neither she nor anyone else could have anticipated.

Whilst the building was rising from the ground books were being accumulated, but without ostentation, and few people were aware that a great library was in process of formation.

The only interruption of the perfect quiet with which this project was pursued, occurred in 1892, some two years after the builders had commenced their work of construction, when there came to Mrs. Rylands an opportunity of giving to this memorial a grandeur which at first had not been contemplated. In that year it was announced that Earl Spencer had decided to dispose of that most famous of all private collections "The Althorp Library." Lord Spencer wisely stipulated with the agent, that a purchaser should be found for the collection as a whole, so as to obviate its dispersal in all directions. For some time this object appeared to be incapable of realisation, and the trustees of the British Museum were therefore tempted with the Caxtons, but the owner would not consent to have the collection broken up by any mode of picking and choosing, and so the negotiations fell through. Negotiations in other directions were then entered into, and it is almost certain that the collection would have been transported to America if Mrs. Rylands had not become aware that it was for sale. Recognizing that the possession of this collection would be the crowning glory of her design, Mrs. Rylands, at an expenditure of nearly a quarter of a million of money, decided to become the purchaser.

While these negotiations were proceeding, scholars throughout the country were naturally in a state of great suspense. As soon, however, as it was announced that the collection had been saved from the disaster of dispersal and was to find a permanent home in England, a great sigh of relief went up. The nation was relieved to know that so many of its priceless literary treasures were to be secured for all time against the risk of transportation, and the public spirit which Mrs. Rylands had manifested was greeted with a chorus of grateful approbation.

Although the Althorp Library, which consisted of rather more than 40,000 volumes, is but part of the John Rylands Library, which to-day numbers upwards of 300,000 printed volumes, it is, by common consent, the most splendid part. Renouard, the French bibliographer, described it as "the most beautiful and richest private library in Europe," and another writer has spoken of it as "a collection which stands above all rivalry." Its distinguishing feature is the collection of early printed books, which, in point of condition, has but few if any rivals, thanks to the book-loving and scholarly instincts possessed by the second Earl Spencer, the founder of the library at Althorp, who for something like forty years haunted the salerooms and book-sellers' shops throughout Europe in his eagerness to enrich his collection with whatever was fine and rare.

Thus it may be said that a collection of books had been acquired for Manchester which in many respects was unrivalled, the possession of which gave to the city a distinction enjoyed by few others. In doing this Mrs. Rylands had enlarged the scope of her original plan, and decided to establish a library that should be at once "a place of pilgrimage to the lover of rare books," and a "live library" for the stimulation of learning, and for the extension of the boundaries of human knowledge, whether in the departments of theology, philosophy, history, philology, literature, art, or bibliography, where students would find not merely the useful appliances for carrying on their work, but an atmosphere with a real sense of inspiration, which would assist them to carry it on in the loftiest spirit.

In this great metropolis of the North of England, which had come to be regarded as an important centre of intellectual activity, a place was already open for such an institution, and in a short time it gained a reputation that it might have taken a century or perhaps centuries to acquire, if ever it could have been acquired at all, had it begun in the ordinary way. It is not surprising therefore that it received the hearty welcome of the scholars of the country, and sprang as if by magic into a high place among the great libraries not only of this country but of the world.

It is comparatively rare to find a rich person whose imagination transcends the ordinary ideal, and who is prepared to give to the community not so much what it wants as what it needs. It is easy to see that people want creature comforts, such as baths, wash-houses

and infirmaries, all of which are excellent and necessary things, but the provision of which, even on the most magnificent scale, might still leave a community mentally and spiritually starving. It is left to a few wealthy people to exhibit a care for the higher part of a man's nature, for the things of the mind. Humphrey Chetham, John Owens, Sir Joseph Whitworth, Chancellor Copley Christie, Jesse Haworth, and Mrs. Rylands have done this for Manchester, and have added to her equipment these splendid and enduring monuments of civic greatness devoted to the higher life of the people.

There is a vast difference between a bequest and a bestowal. We are accustomed to speak of them in the same terms, although in reality there is a moral distinction between the two which compels us to put them in altogether different classes of action. A benefactor who gives her money while she lives is on a higher plane than one who resorts to testamentary methods to dispose of it. It is true that a man who wants to build a library or similar institution will save himself a great deal of trouble and anxiety by letting somebody else build it after he is dead, but this was not the view held by Mrs. Rylands, she preferred to build during her lifetime, and gave personal attention to every detail of the scheme, being ever ready to accept new ideas and to adjust herself to them.

After ten years of loving and anxious care the building was ready for occupation. Only those who were associated with Mrs. Rylands know how much she put into those ten years. From the very inception of her scheme she took the keenest possible interest in it, devoting almost all her time, thought, and energy to it. Not only every detail in the construction of the building, but every other detail of the scheme in general, was carried out under her personal supervision. Nothing escaped her scrutiny, and it would be impossible to say how many admirable features were the result of her personal suggestion. No expense was spared. The architect was commissioned to design a building which should be an ornament to Manchester, in the construction of which only the best materials should be employed, and it is not too much to say that stone-mason, sculptor, metal-worker, and wood-carver have conspired under the direction of the architect, and under the watchful eye of the founder, to construct a building in every way worthy of the priceless collection of treasures which it was intended to house, and which has come to be regarded by competent

authorities as one of the finest specimens of modern Gothic architecture to be found in this or in any country.

It was on the 6th of October, 1899, that this building and its contents were formally dedicated to the public, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering of people from all parts of Europe. The inaugural ceremony, which was at once simple and impressive, will long live in the minds of those who were privileged to be present.

DEDICATION OF THE LIBRARY.

The proceedings were opened at 11 o'clock, by the Reverend Dr. Green, ex-Secretary of the Religious Tract Society, who on behalf of Mrs. Rylands offered to the assembled guests a very cordial welcome. The psalm, "All people that on earth do dwell" was then sung, and the following dedicatory prayer was offered by the Dean of Manchester (The Reverend Dr. Maclure):

O Lord God, from whom all good things do come, and to whom it appertains to give power to get wealth and to use it aright, we bless and praise Thy holy name that it hath pleased Thee to put it into the heart of Thy servant, the founder of this library, to dedicate so willingly of her substance to the glory of Thy great name, to the permanent memory of the departed, and to the culture of her fellow-citizens. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty. Both riches and honour come of Thee, and of Thine own hath Thy servant given Thee. O Lord, we beseech Thee, let Thine ear be attentive to the prayer of Thy servant, and to the prayer of Thy servants who desire to fear Thy name, and prosper, we pray Thee, Thy servant this day; prosper Thou her handiwork. Especially we would implore Thy blessing on this palace wherein are stored the treasures of letters, of learning, and of art, wrought in all manner of cunning workmanship by past generations of men, whence knowledge and wisdom have spread through Thee, who art the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, and whereto shall be brought from time to time that which Thou shalt reveal to ages that are yet to come. Give grace to such as shall administer the affairs thereof, that they may direct them with discretion, and guide those who shall use its resources with all truth, teaching them to devote their powers to Thy glory and to the study of whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report. Furnish them with ability and discernment to bring out of these treasures things new and old, and to turn them to the advancement of Thy glory, and the good of the commonwealth, which we pray that this undertaking may foster and increase. Grant that through the growth of true wisdom and knowledge all hatred and prejudice, all strife and disunion, may cease, and whatsoever else may hinder us from Godly union and concord, and that being united in one

holy Word of Truth and Peace, of Faith and Charity, we may with one mind and one mouth glorify Thee.

Then followed the Lord's Prayer, in which the assembly joined, and the benediction.

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

The inaugural address was delivered by the Reverend Dr. Fairbairn, Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, who spoke for nearly fifty minutes, without a note, and apparently without an effort :

There can be (said Dr. Fairbairn) no more fitting monument of a good man than a good library. In it dwell the immortals who seek by communion with mortal men to ameliorate their lot and to refine their lives. And the man whose name this library bears was a man of simple, unadorned goodness. John Rylands was a typical Manchester manufacturer, merchant and citizen. He loved the city where he had made his wealth, the trade by which the city achieved its name, and the honesty which was the honour of its sons. He was a man whose name went everywhere as the synonym of large and successful enterprise, but still more as the symbol of the honourable merchant and the truthful man. Integrity was the very breath of his life, and there lived in his words and acts a truth so simple as to seem a thing of nature, so spontaneous that it seemed to come from his soul unbidden and unchallenged. Chivalry is an easy virtue to the soldier, for he lives under a discipline so rigorous as to make disobedience difficult. But honesty, which in commerce is what chivalry is in war, the spirit that will not gratify greed, or passion, or self, at the expense of another, has to be cultivated and maintained in the face of sudden and frequent and overwhelming opportunities of secret denial. John Rylands lived more than sixty years in the fierce light that beats upon the Manchester merchant, built up from the lowliest beginnings a business of unparalleled magnitude, and left behind him a name for industry that never hasted or rested and a probity that knew no stain. These qualities were but the visible and manifest fruits of faith in an invisible order. He lived as in the presence of the Eternal, ever as in the great Taskmaster's eye. And so those who knew him did not think of him simply as an indefatigable man of business, but as a doer of good, a lover of truth. He was a man who in the retrospect of a long life could say that in the Sacred Scriptures he had found the strength to bear many troubles, consolation amid many sorrows, and hope and peace for his soul. But the character of the man is best seen in the impression made upon the heart and imagination of the woman to whom we owe this marvellous creation.

There are times for silence and there are times for speech, and speech may be all the more imperative that it is so difficult, and silence on the one hand so easy and on the other hand so greatly desired. But this is an historical occasion, and I would be quite unworthy to be its voice if I refused to speak the thing I know. Well, then, let me frankly say that it would have been a comparatively simple and easy thing for Mrs. Rylands, out of her large means, to set aside a sum ample enough to build this edifice, to equip and endow this institution. She had only to select an architect and

choose a librarian, to summon to her side ministers and agents capable of carrying out her will, saying to them, Here is money, spend it in the princeliest way you can, and if more be needed, more will be at your command. But she did not so read her duty. The ideal created in her imagination by the memory and character of her husband was one she alone could realise. And she proceeded to realise it with the results that we this day behold. Nothing was too immense or too intricate to be mastered, nothing was too small or insignificant to be overlooked. The architect has proved himself a man of genius. He has adorned Manchester, he has enriched England with one of the most distinguised and the most perfect architectural achievements of this century. But he himself would be the foremost to confess that every point had to be judged, criticised and approved or dismissed by the one controlling mind which could never forget the great purpose for which the building was being reared. The decorations within and without, the windows, the statues, the coats of arms, and the mottoes, the bronze work, every item and every detail, passed through the same mind, was singly studied, and each as part of a great harmonious whole. The library itself was so organised as to incorporate the mind of the man it commemorates, and illustrate his character and its sources as they appeared to the person who knew him best. And all was done with a patience and a masterliness that only those intimately acquainted can know or appreciate. Not that she was uncounselled and unadvised. Men who helped to make the business helped to build the library. Men who knew the spiritual character and the moral qualities of John Rylands helped to organise the library. Yet there hardly stands a book on the shelves which the controlling mind has not separately considered, while there are thousands which were personally purchased. And every law or regulation has been designed to make the institution a more perfect incorporation of the aims and ambitions of John Rylands. It is because of this that the library will be entitled to take its place among the deathless creations of love. To multitudes it will simply be the John Rylands Library, built by the munificence of his widow, where literature and theology, the rare Althorp collections and the massive products of many schools and scholars, have been, by the genius of Basil Champneys, splendidly housed. But to the few, and those the few who know, it will forever remain the most marvellous thing in history, as the tribute of a wife's admiration of her husband and her devotion to his memory.

This library, then, can only be understood by being interpreted through the character of John Rylands as it lived in the eye of the woman whose hand and heart and imagination have built this place. Therefore, stands, the first thing—its home is in Manchester, the city where he lived his life, where he amassed his wealth. The city is historical. Ancient times knew it; modern days know its fame; it bears a name illustrious in the history of commerce. There is no people so ignorant as not to have heard of its achievements, no tribe so unclothed as not to have handled its goods. It stands connected with some of the most beneficent legislation of this century, and it also has this single attribute—that it may be described as the capital of a province pre-eminent amid the counties of England for the cultivation of the arts of peace, where in a supreme crisis of modern history, her people

faced poverty, and even the threatened famine, in order that they might see justice done to the slave. Her sons, too, have had the foresight and the munificence to create the foremost of modern colleges, the mother of a newer and broader university than the olden times knew, and to have perfected the education most needed by a race of manufacturers and merchants. But a new title to fame comes this day to the city of Manchester, for she becomes the home of one of the richest, rarest, most distinguished of existing libraries, into which has been absorbed the choice Spencer collections. But they do not stand alone. They are absorbed, taken into a larger home, enhanced where they were of most value, increased where they were most rare. And while the library is to have its home in Manchester, it is not to be Manchester's; it is to be England's—nay, rather, the whole world's. Here the scholar of literature, whatever language he may speak, can come and learn; he can handle rare editions, books that nowhere else can be found; he can see how printing grew, what the ancient printer did, how the curious binder wrought, how literature came to be as it were the very atmosphere we breathe, the common heritage of our people. This library will add to the dignity and the fame of this city. It will stand as the creation of the widow of a man who added to the munificence of the merchant a profound admiration of learning and of letters. It stands as a monument of one who lived and made his wealth and fulfilled his duties in our very midst, and it adds another example to the already vast cloud of witnesses who testify to the princely munificence of the merchant to literature and art.

It is noteworthy that the most famous library of the ancient world, whose loss was a permanent impoverishment of the human mind, had its home, not in Athens, the city of culture; not in Rome, the city of empire; but in Alexandria, a city whose kings were merchants, and whose merchants were kings, whose wealth clad the statesmen of Rome, and fed the philosophers of Athens. The medieval city richest in art and letters, and in the genius which excelled in both, was not Rome, or Cologne, or Canterbury, where royal popes and regal archbishops reigned; nor was it Bologna, or Paris, or Oxford, cities of famous universities; but Florence, the city of commerce and of merchants, the home of Dante and of Michael Angelo, of Giotto and of Macchiavelli, of Savonarola, and of the De Medici, a city that did most to bring east to the west, refining and civilizing her barbaric gems and gold. The city that did most of all the Italian cities for printing the ancient humanities, the city that made Greece articulate to modern minds, was not imperial Vienna, or kingly Madrid, or royal Paris, but commercial Venice, the city of St. Mark, the famed and fair queen of the Adriatic. And so it is not exceptional, but only historical and normal, that here in Manchester, amid factories and warehouses, within reach of the Exchange and the Town Hall, with the noise of your streets rising round it without being able to disturb its cloistered quiet, the home of one of the greatest collections of art and literary treasures should be built. And it has this additional merit—that it perpetuates the name of a man of princely wealth, whose pride it was to be a modest merchant, a dutiful citizen, and a humble lover of letters. London is full of incalculable literary wealth. She has at the British Museum and at South Kensington wealth vaster than her own people can

reckon up, or enquirers from all the world can estimate or use. It is impossible by a munificent gift so much further to enrich London as to make her exceptional and conspicuous. But what is not possible to the capital is possible to the provinces; and everything that raises a great provincial city to what we may term metropolitan rank makes for higher order, sweeter life and purer manners.

The opening of this great library calls for national jubilation. All citizens who desire to see England illumined, reasonable, right, will rejoice that there came into the heart of one who inherited the wealth of this great Manchester merchant the desire to create for him so seemly a monument as this. But those features taken alone would not make this library an appropriate monument of John Rylands. He loved literature, and he cultivated it to the extent of his opportunity. But he was far more eminently a man of religion than a man of letters. By education and conviction and lifelong association he was a Free Churchman. In the Free Churches his character was formed. The faith that held his reason and governed his conscience was of their making. The causes he loved and served, the beneficences and benevolences he cultivated were those they inspired and encouraged. The character we associate with the Puritan of the seventeenth century had in him its modern embodiment. He had the high principle and unbending will, the vigorous conscience and gracious domesticity, the belief in the sanctity of the secular and the sovereignty of the Divine which distinguished the typical Puritan; and he had the imagination capable of turning the highest ideals into the realities of his own life which gave us Milton and Bunyan in letters, Roger Williams and Harry and Oliver Cromwell in statecraft, Colonel and Lucy Hutchinson in the poetry of conduct and the home affections. The qualities which marked him in this respect may be summed up in two simple terms. In religion he was on the one hand Biblical, and on the other hand he was marked by the sweetest and largest catholicity. These had two very fit literary expressions. He edited and published a paragraph Bible with index and notes, which testify to the faith that was in him, and he edited and printed a hymn book which summarised the great points in which all the churches in the supreme act of praise were united and agreed.

Now this library, interpreted by the mind of his widow, incorporates and impersonates these two distinctive features of his character. It expresses a belief in Biblical religion which he confessed gave to him the only answer to many questions, and was a sure relief in innumerable cares. While he was in his heart a religious man, there never was a man who had less of the sectarian, or who was more purely and personally catholic. This library, therefore, is dedicated to Biblical research as well as to literature. The Althorp collection came in, as it were, by the way. The great fundamental, the essential character of the library is that it is Biblical and theological, a great means for educating men in Scriptural knowledge. In one room in this building, and that room not large, there is perhaps the most marvellous collection of Bibles in the world; they make a great appeal to the literary and æsthetic sense; they speak of English style, and art, and of printing throughout the world. They have immense historical interest, for they tell

of the revolution which printing brought everywhere. Now not only was he, as I have said, a man deeply devoted to Biblical study, he was no less devoted to practical and personal religion, and the library that commemorates him is meant to be not a mere collection of books, but an institution so constituted as to make for religion, and especially for religious unity, for it is the heirloom of no particular denomination, it is to be the possession and property of no single body, it is to stand at the service of all the Churches. No single sect will be able to claim it as its own. No single or collective body will be able to take from it its catholic and œcumenical character. Three things seem to make most of all for unity. First the intelligence of the clergy, or the reign of reason in the ministry of the churches; secondly, mutual regard, or that tolerance which can differ without despising and serve one Church without feeling disagreement turned into dislike; and thirdly, brotherhood, or the absence of the exclusive claims which alienate by their affirmation of peculiar privileges and rights. And these are the things which are to be here cultivated.

This is to be a home for the student, the made student and the student in the making. This library will stand open and will say to all, come and see how vast is the full-orbed circle of truth, dwell with the immortals near the heart of things, and you will find it easy to differ generously and graciously with the mortals who walk on the outward rim of the vast circumference. And as it will make for knowledge, so I hope it will make for mutual regard and brotherhood. This will not be a Church-house or a memorial hall, full of ancient feud and modern strife. It will be, as it were, a spiritual exchange, where men without the use of a shibboleth will be able to come, to give thought and to get it and add to the common utility of common life by drinking at the fount eternal. I know how inadequate and stammering this exposition of the ideal and function of it is, for I know, in part at least, the ideal in the mind of her who dreamed. It stands here fitly in a city where wealth is made, to help to promote the culture, to enlarge the liberty, to confirm the faith, to illumine the way of its citizens small and great. A munificence more than royal has done in one day for this place, and through it for the world, what the wisdom and wealth of centuries have accomplished in other places, and has so done it as to create an institution of a newer order, with ends higher and broader than those any mere library can either contemplate or attain.

This library may be described as a personal library, while the other great libraries of Europe may be termed impersonal. Of these the most ancient is the Vatican. No man made it. It is the creation of time, place, opportunities, all in their degree unrivalled. The wonder is, not that it is so great, but rather that it is not infinitely greater. The Roman Empire, as well as the Roman Church, is there. The ancient and the modern world are joined by the medieval school men, the scribe and scholar of the Renaissance. We can feel, then, that it enters into the life of the community, and is intended to accomplish for the life of that community a new, a noble and a permanent thing. It seeks to benefit the sons of toil, for it ever has been the case that the men who have seen visions and dreamed dreams have not been the men of leisure, the moneyed, the retired, the class

who could, as it were, command all time as their own; the men who have dreamed great things have been men like the herdsman of Tekoa, who leads the great army of literary prophets, or that tentmaker who leads the great army of literary apostles. They have been men like Socrates, the sculptor; Epictetus, the slave; Augustine, the teacher of rhetoric. They have been men like to Piers the ploughman, whose vision almost inaugurated the reign and the course of English literature. They have been men like Shakespeare, the English yeoman; John Milton, the son of a London scrivener; or Robert Burns, the northern farmer; or Walter Scott, a lawyer's son; or John Keats, an apothecary. Here, amid toil, great ideals may be borne. Idealism is the heritage of those who labour, it is the heritage that redeems them from that which seems to soil and begrime. Wealth is great when the men that make it are animated by a great purpose; inspired by holy and consuming passions. Fear not to cultivate in your midst a large and generous idealism. Your factories and your Exchange will keep you practical enough. Then your city will stand proudly alongside the great merchant cities of the world. She will bear a name which will make her as honoured in letters, in art, in the achievements we call culture and refinement, as in those that adorn the secular life. And when one asks, Whence came this home? let the answer go back, It was made by a son of Manchester, a merchant who loved her, who loved letters, who loved, above all, religion, and who had no greater heritage to leave, out of the wealth he had amassed, than to create this centre of light and home for learning.

The LORD MAYOR OF MANCHESTER (Alderman, afterwards Sir William Vaudrey), speaking on behalf of the citizens of Manchester, said:

How deeply they were indebted to Mrs. Rylands for erecting this magnificent building and for securing to them such a priceless collection of books. The corporation had not neglected the provision of libraries in Manchester, and the addition of the John Rylands Library would greatly increase the reputation of the city as a literary centre. This gift to Manchester was a noble example of munificence on the part of a private citizen, and deserved the best return the city could make. It would be his pleasant duty, later on at the Town Hall, to present Mrs. Rylands with the freedom of the city, the greatest honour it was in their power to confer.

Dr. (afterwards Sir Alfred) HOPKINSON, as Principal of Owens College, speaking on behalf of his colleagues at Owens College, who were engaged in the work of spreading or of adding to knowledge, said:

It was his privilege to offer to Mrs. Rylands an expression of their grateful appreciation of the magnificent addition she had made to the resources which were at their disposal in carrying on their work. He desired to add an expression of grateful acknowledgment on behalf of the younger generation of scholars and students who would find there, he thought, not merely useful

appliances in carrying on their work but a real sense of inspiration in carrying it on in the highest spirit. It was perfectly true, as the poet had said, in speaking of the scholar's work and life, that " lofty designs must close in like effects." They had in the John Rylands Library an example of a lofty design, and they had a magnificent effect produced by that noble conception. He meant the idea which sprang in the mind of Mrs. Rylands when thinking of what would be a suitable monument of her husband, and when she erected this magnificent temple of learning and palace of art.

The Rev. Dr. ALEXANDER MCLAREN said :

He had the melancholy distinction of being the senior minister of religion in Manchester, and on that account it could not be unfitting that he should, on behalf of clerical students of all denominations, re-echo the acknowledgments which had already been made so eloquently by Principal Fairbairn, of the lovely devotion and magnificent generosity of the donor of this building and of the high appreciation in which they would hold it as an aid to their studies. Some of them could remember the very humble germ out of which this great building had grown—he meant the little library which long ago in the suburb of Stretford Mr. Rylands watched over with fostering care, and which in its measure and time was of incalculable benefit to many a struggling minister and clergyman. The same spirit, transfigured and glorified, was to be seen in this magnificent building. He heartily rejoiced to second the wise words of Principal Fairbairn in speaking of the immense advantage, nay more, the vital necessity for coming generations and for our own time, that the ministry of all the Churches should be much more distinctly and strongly than he was afraid they could flatter themselves it was to-day a learned and cultured ministry. It was because of the *res angustæ domi* which unfortunately marked the domestic arrangements of clerics of all orders and made it almost impossible for a struggling clergyman or minister to keep himself abreast of the growth of learning and of theological and biblical science that they were to a large extent dependents in this respect upon the generosity of others. They hailed the opportunity of finding in this library the precious books which their narrow purses prevented them storing upon their own shelves, and which they hoped to thumb here for many a day to come. There was one other aspect of this library on which he would like to say a word. Here they could all unite—his friend the dean and the dignified order which he represented, and those who represented the democracy and what he might for the moment call the vulgar side of English religion—forgetting their differences in the one common attitude of scholars and learners, helpers together to a fuller apprehension of the truth. He would not venture upon sacreder ground, but they must all feel that this magnificent structure became still more rare and precious when they thought of it as the out-growth of a woman's heart, the memorial of a lifelong treasure and a lifelong sorrow. He ventured, on behalf of a not unimportant section of our great community to voice to Mrs. Rylands the gratitude of all the students, and especially the ministerial students of Manchester for this noble edifice and its still more precious contents.

The National Anthem was then sung, and the proceedings at the library were brought to a close with the benediction.

PRESENTATION OF FREEDOM OF CITY TO MRS. RYLANDS.

At the conclusion of the opening ceremony at the library, a large number of the guests proceeded to the Town Hall, to attend another equally interesting function, which was that of conferring the freedom of the city of Manchester upon Mrs. Rylands, who was the first lady to receive that distinction.

The resolution conferring the freedom of the city upon Mrs. Rylands was read by the Town Clerk, and was in the following terms :

That the members of this Council desire to express their opinion that the powers accorded to them by law for the recognition of eminent services would be fittingly exercised by conferring upon Mrs. Enriqueta Augustina Rylands the freedom of the city—the highest distinction which it is their privilege to bestow.

Mrs. Rylands is distinguished and honoured by the community :—

For the generous manner in which she has founded and dedicated to the public, and enshrined in a beautiful and costly edifice, a noble library for the promotion of study and the pursuit of learning.

For the large collection of books formed by herself, and especially for its enrichment by the addition of the celebrated Althorp Library, purchased from Earl Spencer.

For the exceptional service thus rendered by preventing this invaluable library from being removed from England.

For the important facilities she has thus afforded to the standard of bibliographical research by bringing together so many of the rarest and most precious of literary treasures as will make Manchester a place of pilgrimage to scholars throughout the world.

For the enlightened wisdom by which this valuable property will be invested in trustees, its government entrusted to chosen representatives, and its management based on broad and liberal principles.

The Council, in recognition of these and other eminent services, do hereby, in pursuance of the Honorary Freedom of Boroughs Act, 1885, confer on Mrs. Enriqueta Augustina Rylands the honorary freedom of the city of Manchester, and hereby admit her to the honorary freedom of the city of Manchester accordingly.

The LORD MAYOR, addressing Mrs. Rylands, said :

The resolution expresses in a brief manner the reasons which have led the Corporation to ask you to be present here to-day to receive from my hands, on behalf of the citizens, the freedom of the city. You have to-day completed and carried out a work in Manchester with which your name and the name of your late husband, the late John Rylands, will for ever be

associated. The conception of this grand scheme, by which you have secured for our city the Althorp Library, of world-wide reputation, and have founded a magnificent home not only for this library but for a large number of other works you have acquired, deserves from the hands of the ratepayers of this city their most generous thanks. You will have by your action to-day handed over and endowed in a liberal manner a library which will be sought after by students from all parts of the world, and you will have made the name of our city famous as a literary centre. You are the first lady in Manchester to have the honour of the freedom of the city conferred upon her, and you well deserve such honour.

Alderman J. W. SOUTHERN, as chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, supported the resolution in the following words :

The obligation Mrs. Rylands has laid us under is too great to be adequately acquitted, and far too great for any language of mine to satisfactorily acknowledge. The money value of such a benefaction as the magnificent library this day dedicated to the public use is the lowest and most sordid basis upon which to appraise it, but regarded from this point of view it is the most munificent gift which has ever been bestowed upon the citizens of Manchester, and, in its kind, than has been given to any city in this kingdom, or indeed in the world, for although transatlantic cities in this respect owe much to the benefaction of private citizens, the Rylands Library transcends all gifts of this character. But unlike many forms of beneficence which once used are gone forever, or others whose value is diminished in the using, this will grow in value as the generations and the centuries pass. It is an essential quality of good literature that it fructifies according to the extent of its use. Great thoughts are like good seeds, they find a soil in receptive minds, and bring forth of their kind. Books, indeed, are perishable, notwithstanding the exercise of the greatest care in protecting them, but the contents of a good book never perish; they pass into the mental crucible and are reproduced. The form of expression may change, but the spirit and essence are indestructible. To whatever heights human knowledge and the product of human thought have attained, once enshrined in a printed book they become the inheritance of all the ages. Through our voices this morning the great city of Manchester conveys to Mrs. Rylands its profound gratitude for her noble gift, its high appreciation of the form her sagacious judgment has adopted, which, while continuing to a remote posterity the memory of her late husband, will add lustre to the city in which his long, diligent and honourable life was passed. When the chief captain learned that Paul was a free Roman citizen he exclaimed: "With a great sum obtained I this freedom." No "great sum" will ever purchase the freedom of the city of Manchester, but when its citizens consider what is the highest honour they can pay to those they hold worthiest—the conferring of the freedom of the city is now, and ever will be, the expression of their highest regard; and it is with this sentiment in our minds to-day that we ask Mrs. Rylands to allow us to enroll her name among the very few upon whom this distinction has been conferred.

The Lord Mayor then handed the casket[1] containing the scroll to Mrs. Rylands, who made the following reply, which was read by her brother, Mr. S. J. Tennant :

It is not my intention to make a speech, but as it would be repugnant to my feelings to remain silent, you will, I am sure, pardon me if I speak briefly. I wish simply in as few words as possible to thank you, and I do it most heartily, for the great honour you have conferred upon me in presenting me with the freedom of your great city. It was certainly a surprise to me when I became aware that you had it in contemplation to pay me this honour. I had never thought of public recognition of myself for this private work, which is designed as a memorial to my husband. It has been the delightful interest of the past ten years to watch its growth, and to-day that my object is fulfilled, and I see the library opened, I have only to add my earnest hopes that every expectation for good that it has ever raised may be fulfilled. In my affection the city of Manchester must always hold an unique place, inasmuch as it is the city with which my husband's life was most intimately associated, and it is for this reason, as you all know, that I have chosen to place here, in Manchester, this library bearing his name. And when I use the word city, I use it in the widest sense, that is to say, as applying to the city in all its manifold activities and life. These activities, and this many-sided life—literary and educational, mercantile, professional and industrial, and lastly, what I regard as first in importance, religious—I have endeavoured to associate in the government of this library. Nor have I forgotten the part which Manchester has played in the past, and will, I hope, play in the future, in the life of the country at large, and more especially in that of the north of England. For this reason I have also asssociated in the government of this library certain bodies which are not local (such as the National Council of the Free Churches), and certain others which, though not exclusively local, have here the centre of their life (such as the Victoria University). Once again, my Lord Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, I express to you my hearty thanks for all the kind things you have expressed, and I repeat my deep acknowledgment of the honour you have done me, and which I shall always hold as a treasured remembrance.

Mrs. Rylands having signed the roll of burgesses the company afterwards adjourned to the large hall, where luncheon was served to about 350 guests. The Lord Mayor presided, having Mrs. Rylands on his right hand.

Mr. WILLIAM LINNELL, the first Chairman of the Council of

[1] The silver casket enclosing the scroll, which was handed to Mrs. Rylands on the occasion of her admission to the freedom of the City, has been presented to the Governors for preservation in the library in perpetuity, by the family of the late Mr. Stephen Joseph Tennant, the brother of Mrs. Rylands, into whose possession it passed at the death of his sister.

Governors, in responding on behalf of Mrs. Rylands to the toast proposed by the Lord Mayor, said :

Mrs. Rylands had been sustained and animated by a desire to make the John Rylands Library a memorial to her late husband worthy of a good man and of the city in which he spent so long and so successful a career. To those who knew the late Mr. Rylands and the direction which his philanthropy took—or rather, he would say, the direction which afforded him the most pleasure—this decision of Mrs. Rylands to erect, equip and endow a public library, rich in theological, classical, biographical and other works, would seem a decision that was peculiarly appropriate. It was a great gratification to Mrs. Rylands to-day to know that the outcome of her decision had met with such warm approval. That approval was enhanced in value by the fact that it emanated from a body of gentlemen eminently distinguished for their public spirit, foresight and desire to carry out the educational and commercial undertakings that had raised this great centre of industry to such a proud and enviable position among the cities of this country. It was but the barest justice to say that Mrs. Rylands had all along desired that this work should be carried on in a quiet and unostentatious way. He would like to say that with her this had not been a matter in which a rich person had said, "Here is so much money to spend ; spend it" ; and who then had left it. Mrs. Rylands had herself from the very beginning taken the keenest interest, had devoted almost all her time, almost all her thought, to this great work. She had not only done this as regarded the building and its arrangements, but also in regard to the selection of treasures that were to be found within the walls of the library. The more these treasures attracted students and scholars and men of learning, the more that this library added to the dignity and importance of this city, the more would Mrs. Rylands feel repaid for the time and thought and money which she had expended on the John Rylands Library. She would feel that she had erected in our midst a memorial worthy and enduring of the great man who was her husband.

RECEPTION AT THE LIBRARY.

In the evening there was a conversazione at the library when the guests, who numbered about 1000, were received by Mrs. Rylands. The exquisite work of the interior of the building was seen to great advantage under the brilliant installation of the electric light, and the exhibition of some two hundred of the chief treasures which had been arranged for the occasion in various parts of the building, added greatly to the enjoyment of the guests, and to the interest of the day's proceedings.

UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION.

Mrs. Rylands' liberality was not by any means confined to the library. When the Whitworth Hall was built for the Owens College by the late Chancellor Copley Christie,

Mrs. Rylands crowned the benefaction by the gift of a fine organ, which was ready for use when the Prince and Princess of Wales performed the opening ceremony on the 12th of March, 1902. It should be mentioned that the celebration of the jubilee of the Owens College had been postponed for a year until the building of the hall was finished.

On the day following the opening ceremony a number of honorary degrees were conferred to mark the celebration of the Jubilee, when Mrs. Rylands received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, at the hands of the Chancellor of the University, in the person of Earl Spencer, whose library she had been the means of bestowing on Manchester.

Mrs. Rylands was presented to the Chancellor in the following terms of appreciation, by the late Professor A. S. Wilkins:

> I present Mrs. Rylands, who, with splendid munificence, has gathered in Manchester a magnificent library as the most fitting memorial for one who cared much that the best books should be accessible to all, who laid down the rules for its government with far-sighted sagacity, who endowed it lavishly, and who is never weary of adding to its treasures with a watchful and discriminating generosity.

ENDOWMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

Mrs. Rylands' interest in the library did not end with the erection and equipment of the building. She endowed it with an annual income for its maintenance and extension, and again and again when rare and costly books or collections of books came into the market, which were beyond the reach of the ordinary income of the library to secure, she readily and generously found the money for their purchase if only she could be assured that the usefulness of the library would be enhanced by their possession. Never has the philosophy of large giving had a better illustration.

In the month of August, 1901, another instance of the munificence of the founder and of her continued interest in the library was made public, with the announcement that the celebrated collection of illuminated and other manuscripts belonging to the Earl of Crawford, numbering upwards of six thousand items, had been acquired for a sum little less than that paid for the Althorp collection. The purchase came as a great surprise to all but a very few, for the negotiations had been conducted in that quiet, unostentatious manner which was characteristic of all Mrs. Rylands' actions.

The importance of this addition to the library's resources cannot be overestimated, since it gives to it a position with regard to Oriental and Western manuscripts similar to that which it previously occupied in respect of early printed books through the possession of the "Althorp Library," for just as the distinguishing mark of that collection was to be found in the early printed books, so the manuscripts formed the distinguishing mark of the "Bibliotheca Lindesiana."

In order that the value and contents of the collection should be brought to the knowledge of scholars in all parts of the world, Mrs. Rylands generously undertook to defray the cost of cataloguing it in a manner commensurate with its importance. To this end arrangements were entered into with a number of leading scholars to deal with manuscripts in their own special line of research, and, although several of these catalogues have since appeared, and others may be expected shortly, it is to be regretted that Mrs. Rylands did not live to see this part of her scheme carried through.

From first to last Mrs. Rylands' interest in the library was unflagging. Until within a few weeks of her death she was making purchases of manuscripts and books, under the guidance of the librarian, and one of her last cares was to provide accommodation for the rapid extension of the library, so that the work should in no wise be hampered for want of space. A fine site adjoining the library had been acquired, and it was her intention, had she lived, to erect thereon a store building that would provide accommodation for at least half a million volumes. Unfortunately death intervened before the arrangements in pursuance of her intentions could be completed.

There are those who believe that institutions of this character grow of themselves when once started. This is a mistaken idea which, fortunately, was not shared by Mrs. Rylands. She realised very fully that they do not grow of themselves, that they must be made to grow, and that money is the only fertiliser that is of any use.

Mrs. Rylands' death occurred on the 4th of February, 1908, to the grievous loss not only of the institution which she had founded, but to the entire city of Manchester.

In her will Mrs. Rylands made additional provision for the upkeep and development of the library, which has enabled the trustees and governors to administer it in a manner worthy of the lofty ideals of the founder.

In addition to the monetary bequests, Mrs. Rylands bequeathed to the library, all books, manuscripts, and engravings in her residence at Longford Hall, numbering several thousands of volumes, many of which were of great importance. These she had gathered round her during the last twenty years of her life not alone for her own pleasure, but with a view to the ultimate enrichment of the library. It must suffice to say that the collection was very rich in modern "éditions de luxe," such as the great galleries of paintings of "Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle," "Bridgewater House," "Ham House," "The Wallace Collection," "The Louvre," and "The Hermitage"; Sir Walter Armstrong's monographs on Sir Joshua Reynolds, Turner, Raeburn, and Gainsborough; Mrs. Frankau's "Eighteenth Century Colour Prints," "William Ward," and "John Raphael Smith"; Mrs. Williamson's "Book of Beauty"; Goupil's series of "Historical Monographs,"—these and many similar works are included, most of which are in the choicest posssible state. Of such series as the "Doves Press," and the "Essex House Press" there are sets printed on vellum. Of "Grangerized," or extra-illustrated, books, mention may be made of the following: Forster's "Life of Dickens," 10 vols.; "The Book of the Thames," 4 vols.; Boswell's "Life of Johnson," 4 vols.; "The Works of Sir Walter Scott," 67 vols., etc. Other noteworthy books are: Ongania's "Basilica di San Marco," 15 vols.; Bode's edition of Rembrandt, with Hamerton's work on the same master; the facsimiles of the "Grimani Breviary," and the "Hortulus Anime"; the copy of Tissot's "Old Testament," which contains the whole of his original pen drawings; and a set of the four folios of Shakespeare. The illuminated manuscripts include: two "Books of Hours," attributed to Hans Memling; two French "Books of Hours," one of which was executed for King Charles VII of France, and several beautifully decorated Bibles and Chronicles. In the matter of bindings, there is a fine collection of examples of work by the great modern masters of the craft. There is also a very large number of autographs and historical documents, including the greater part of the collection formed by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Raffles, of Liverpool, in the first half of the last century. These are but a few items taken at random, and intended merely to indicate the character of the books which Mrs. Rylands gathered around her during the last twenty years of her life.

Hitherto, our remarks, of necessity, have been confined almost exclusively to Mrs. Rylands' relations to the library, which she looked upon with pardonable pride as her great achievement. But her munificence did not end there, nor with her gifts to numerous other public objects in which she took a keen interest. The full extent of her benefactions will probably never be known. She was naturally reserved, and delighted to do good by stealth, but those who take an active part in charitable work in Manchester could testify to her unfailing readiness to assist any good cause of which she approved. She did not simply give money out of her great wealth, she also gave care, thought, and attention to all that she was interested in.

Personally, Mrs. Rylands was little known, she shrank from publicity, she kept no diary, and left only a few scattered notes which could be employed as aids to memory, but whatever material there was in writing at the time of her death was committed to the flames by her express direction. She was a woman of very marked ability and of great determination, and those who had the privilege of assisting her in any of her numerous and absorbing interests can testify to her wonderful business capacity, and to her mastery of detail. She possessed truly, and in a remarkable degree, "the genius of taking pains."

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LIBRARY.

The library property was vested in a body of nine trustees, to hold office continuously, with power to fill any vacancies, as they should occur, by the vote of the surviving members of the Trust; whilst the administration of the library was entrusted to a council of eighteen governors, consisting of ten representatives of the University and City of Manchester, and certain other bodies which are not local in character, and eight co-opted governors appointed by the council under regulations prescribed in the constitution, which are based on broad and liberal principles.

Of the nine trustees originally appointed by Mrs. Rylands only one survives: Sir Evan Spicer, J.P. The present board consists of the one continuing trustee, and the following members: Mr. Gerard N. Ford, J.P., Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., Mr. W. Arnold Linnell, The Marquess of Hartington, The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, P.C., K.T., and Sir Henry A. Miers, F.R.S.

Of the eighteen governors forming the first council, who were also

appointed by Mrs. Rylands, only two survive in active association with the library : Professor T. F. Tout, Litt.D., F.B.A., and Professor A. S. Peake, D.D. Canon James M. Wilson, D.D., who at the time of the inauguration was Archdeacon of Manchester, resigned his seat on the council of governors upon his appointment, in 1905, to a canonry, which he still holds, in Worcester Cathedral. The present council is constituted as follows : Sir Henry A. Miers, D.Sc., F.R.S., etc. (Chairman), Mr. Goodier Haworth, M.A., J.P. (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. Gerard N. Ford, J.P. (Hon. Secretary), Alderman T. C. Abbott, J.P., Professor C. H. Herford, Litt.D., Professor L. E. Kastner, M.A., Mr. W. Marsden, J.P., Alderman Henry Plummer, J.P., Professor H. Bompas Smith, M.A., M.Ed., Sir William Stephens, J.P., Professor T. F. Tout, Litt.D., F.B.A., who are representative governors, and the following co-opted members : the Right Rev. Bishop William Temple, D.D., the Rev. Principal W. E. Blomfield, D.D., the Rev. George Jackson, D.D., the Rev. R. Mackintosh, D.D., Professor A. S. Peake, D.D., the Rev. F. J. Powicke, Ph.D., and the Rev. J. E. Roberts, D.D.

The first Chairman of the Council was Mr. William Linnell, one of the original Trustees and a Life-Governor, who had been closely associated with Mrs. Rylands from the inception of her scheme, and rendered very valuable assistance in connection with the building and organisation of the library down to the time of his death, which took place in 1901. He was succeeded by Alderman Harry Rawson from 1901 to 1903 ; by Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., from 1903 to 1918 ; by Sir George W. Macalpine, J.P., from 1918 to 1920 ; and by Sir Henry A. Miers, D.Sc., F.R.S., since 1920.

The first occupant of the office of Honorary Treasurer was Mr. Stephen Joseph Tennant, the brother of Mrs. Rylands, who, also, from the inception of the scheme was closely associated with his sister, and served the library with untiring devotion until within a few days of his death, which occurred in 1914. He was succeeded by Sir Thomas Thornhill Shann, J.P., and upon the decease of the latter in 1923 by Mr. J. Goodier Haworth, M.A., J.P.

The Rev. J. W. Kiddle, one of the Trustees and Governors, was the first Honorary Secretary, an office which he continued to fill until his death in 1911, when he was succeeded by Mr. Gerard N. Ford, J.P.

In addition to the above-named members of the Trust and Council, the following have been actively associated with the administration of the library, either as Trustees or Governors, during the respective periods covered by the years indicated within the brackets after their names : The Rev. Principal W. F. Adeney, D.D. (Governor, 1904-1913) ; Sir William H. Bailey (Governor, 1899-1913) ; the Rev. C. L. Bedale (Governor, 1917-1919) ; Mr. William Carnelley, (Trustee and Governor, 1899-1919) ; Lord Cozens-Hardy of Letheringsett (Trustee, 1899-1920) ; Professor T. W. Rhys Davids, LL.D., etc. (Governor, 1909-1915) ; Mr. J. Arnold Green (Governor, 1899-1901) ; the Rev. Samuel Gosnell Green, D.D. (Trustee, 1899-1905) ; Mr. H. A. Heywood (Governor, 1919) ; the Right Rev. Bishop E. L. Hicks, D.D. (Governor, 1905-1910) ; the Rev. Silvester Horne (Trustee, 1899-1914) ; Professor Victor Kastner (Governor, 1907-1909) ; Mr. John E. King (Governor, 1899-1903) ; The Right Rev. Bishop E. Knox, D.D. (Governor, 1918-1921) ; the Rev. A. Mackennal, D.D. (Governor, 1899-1904) ; the Rev. Alexander Maclaren, D.D. (Governor, 1899-1910) ; the Rev. J. T. Marshall, D.D. (Governor, 1910-1923) ; Professor James Hope Moulton, Litt.D., etc. (Governor, 1904-1917) ; Mr. J. Lewis Paton, (Governor, 1913-1917) ; the Rev. Marshall Randles, D.D. (Governor, 1899-1904) ; Sir Thomas Thornhill Shann, J.P. (Governor, 1910-1923 ; Trustee, 1915-1923) ; Mr. Reuben Spencer, (Trustee, 1899-1901) ; Professor J. Strachan, Litt.D., etc. (Governor, 1903-1907) ; the Rev. A. W. H. Streuli (Governor, 1899-1913) ; Alderman Joseph Thompson, LL.D. (Governor, 1899-1909) ; Sir William Vaudrey, J.P. (Governor, 1905-1911) ; Professor Charles E. Vaughan, Litt.D. (Governor, 1914-1918 and 1919-1922) ; Sir Adolphus William Ward (Trustee, 1899-1924) ; the Right Rev. Bishop J. E. H. Welldon, D.D. (Governor, 1910-1918) ; Professor A. S. Wilkins, Litt.D., etc. (Governor, 1899-1905) ; the Venerable Archdeacon J. M. Wilson, D.D. (Governor, 1899-1905).

The Corporation of Manchester have the right to appoint two of the representative governors, but the library is in nowise subject to the control of the Municipality, nor does it derive any financial support from the city ; its income is derived from endowments provided by the founder, and it may therefore be regarded as a national trust. The conditions under which permission to read therein is granted are

exactly similar to those which obtain at the British Museum. Indeed, the aim of the governors, from the very outset, has been to build up a reference and research library for the North of England on the lines of the great national institution at Bloomsbury.

This policy of administration has been fully justified. One of the outstanding features of the use made of the library during the short period of its history, is the large amount of original research which has been conducted by students, not only from the home universities, but also by scholars from all parts of the world.

Throughout the twenty-five years of its activities the duty of the library to scholarship has been recognized, and the governors, with a liberal interpretation of their responsibility to learning, have realized that, whilst it is their primary duty carefully to preserve and to build up the collections of books and manuscripts entrusted to their charge, yet the real importance of such a library rests, not alone upon the number or the rarity of the works of which it is composed, but upon the use which is made of them. Only in this way can the library be worthy of its history.

It was inevitable that the possession of so great an inheritance of literary treasures should cause the library to become a place of pilgrimage for the lovers of rare books, as well as for those who have given themselves to the service of learning. From the first, however, it has been the steadfast aim of the governors to make it an efficient working library for students, and, with this end in view, they have developed the collections by providing the best authorities in the various departments of literature which come within its scope, so as to excite and diffuse a love of learning, and at the same time assist the original investigations and efforts of those who might wish to devote themselves to the pursuit of some special branch of study.

This design has been consistently followed without any material change since the day of its inauguration. It has remained only to build up the collections along lines which have already been fruitful of good results, and as a consequence the library has quickly developed into an admirable laboratory for historical and literary investigation.

In the early years of the library's history it was not surprising to find that there were many lacunæ in its collections, but every effort has been employed gradually to reduce their number, and with gratifying success. In this respect the valuable services rendered by readers,

who, from to time time, have pointed out the library's lack of important authorities in their special lines of research, have to be gratefully acknowledged. Suggestions of this, or of any kind, which tend to the improvement of the library, have always been both invited and welcomed, and have received prompt and sympathetic attention.

It was also considered desirable to give to the general public, as well as to those who had not yet discovered the delights and advantages of literary study, or who had only a casual acquaintance with books, opportunities for forming some idea of the scope and character of the collections, and of the possibilities of usefulness which the library offered. With the object of providing the means for fostering such interest, and in that way, of making the resources of the library better known, provision was made in the planning and equipment of the building for exhibitions and public lectures. A number of exhibition cases were installed in the main library, which is situated on the first floor, and two lecture halls were provided on the ground floor, the larger intended for public lectures, the smaller for lecture demonstrations.

EXHIBITIONS.

The first steps to be taken in this endeavour to stimulate interest in the library, were by the arrangement of exhibitions, which have since come to be regarded as one of the permanent features of the library's work. They are designed to reveal to readers as well as to visitors something of the character of the collections which have made the library famous in the world of letters, and which at the same time have helped to make Manchester a centre of attraction for scholars from all parts of the world.

Among the subjects with which these exhibitions have dealt hitherto, the following may be mentioned: "The Art and Craft of the Scribes and Illuminators of the Middle Ages"; "The Beginnings of Books"; "The History of the Transmission of the Bible from the Earliest Times"; "Books and Broadsides illustrating the History of Printing"; "Original Editions of the Works of John Milton"; "Manuscripts and Printed Editions of the Works of Dante Alighieri"; "Original Editions of the Principal English Classics"; "Mediæval Manuscripts and Jewelled Book Covers"; and "The Works of Shakespeare, his Sources, and the Writings of his Principal Contemporaries."

It has been customary to issue a descriptive hand-book in connection

with each exhibition which usually contains an historical introduction to the subject dealt with, a list of the principal works bearing upon it which may be consulted in the library, and facsimiles of title-pages or characteristic pages, of some of the most famous of the exhibits. These hand-books, which often extend to upwards of a hundred pages, are prepared with the greatest possible care, and are calculated to be of permanent value to students.

If we may judge from the large number of people, including groups of students, who, with evident enjoyment and avowed benefit, have visited these exhibitions, as well as from the appreciative notices which have appeared in the press, the object which we had in view has been abundantly realised.

Interest in the library has also been fostered by means of public lectures. The first series was arranged in 1901, in which the librarian dealt exclusively with the history and contents of the library. This was followed in the succeeding session by a series on "Books and their makers." Such was the success of these experiments that a more ambitious scheme was entered upon, and in each of the subsequent twenty-three years a syllabus has been arranged, which has included the names of scholars of the highest eminence, who have gladly responded to the invitation extended to them to lecture upon the subjects of which they are recognized authorities. In the course of these lectures new theories and discoveries have often been advanced, which were calculated to impart a fresh stimulus to study in their respective fields of research. The lecture-room has generally been filled to overflowing, with an audience which was at once responsive and inspiring, and on many occasions large numbers have been unable to gain admission. Each lecture is made the occasion for directing attention to the sources of information upon the subject dealt with, which are available in the library.

PUBLIC LECTURES.

Another department of work which has met with encouraging success is represented by the bibliographical and other demonstrations, which are arranged from time to time, for organized parties of students from the University, the training colleges, the technical and secondary schools, and other similar institutions in Manchester and the neighbouring towns.

DEMONSTRATIONS TO STUDENTS AND CRAFTSMEN.

As a rule the demonstration deals with the author or subject, sometimes a period of history or of literature, which has been the

theme of class study during the term. Such subjects as : "The Beginnings of Literature," "The Beginnings of Printing," "The Books of the Middle Ages," "The Revival of Learning," "The Early Settlement of America," "The Bible before Printing," "The Printed English Bible," "Aldus," "Chaucer," "Wiclif," "Shakespeare," "Dante," and "Milton" have each in turn been dealt with in this manner.

These parties, which consist of from twenty-five to a hundred students, are accommodated in one of the lecture rooms, around tables upon which the manuscript and other material for the demonstration had been arranged. Experience has taught us that nothing will help a student to appreciate the reality underlying the great names of literature or history like a personal introduction to the original editions of their works, or to the most authoritative material bearing upon the subject. In dealing with ancient history, for example, to be able to show a group of tablets, consisting of letters of the time of Ḥammurabi or Abraham, a proclamation of Nebuchadrezzar, the writing tablets of one of the Roman Consuls, or a papyrus document written during the lifetime of our Lord, is to make history live. In the case of Shakespeare, to be able to show copies of the actual editions of the books to which Shakespeare must have had access, and which he drew upon in the writing of his plays, or of the original editions of his own works, is to impart a sense of personal acquaintance with, or a vivid impression of the writer, which not only intensifies the student's love for the particular subject, but awakens an interest in the many valuable collections which the library possesses, and in that way lays a foundation for future study.

On several occasions, at the request of the Head Teachers' Association and the Teachers' Guild, model demonstrations of a similar character have been given to large parties of teachers, who have expressed appreciation of this method of utilising the resources of the library, opening out, as it does, vistas of usefulness not hitherto contemplated by them.

Groups of craftsmen connected with the printing, book-binding, and other trade societies, have also had lecture demonstrations arranged for them upon such subjects as writing, printing, book-illustration, and book-binding, which, to judge from their expressions of grateful appreciation, have enabled them to carry away a new conception of

the dignity and possibilities of the particular craft to which they belonged.

From the educational point of view, the library may be said to have achieved a gratifying measure of success by means of these exhibitions, lectures, and demonstrations, since many of the schools and colleges have been avowedly aided in their work, and have been drawn into closer relationship with the institution. Not only so, but in a large number of cases which have been brought to our knowledge, the interest of the casual visitor has also ripened into a desire to become a regular reader, with the avowed object of following up lines of study suggested to them in the course of some lecture or demonstration.

In the year 1910 the governors wisely decided to instal a photographic studio with a complete and up-to-date equipment of apparatus, and their action has been abundantly justified by the results already obtained. This new department is fraught with possibilities of world-wide benefit, for it has made it possible to render to scholars, both at home and abroad, most valuable assistance, by furnishing them with photographed facsimiles of pages from some of the rarer printed books and manuscripts. Again and again, in the case of requests for transcripts and collations of passages from some important text in the possession of the library, it has been found possible, at small cost, to provide a photograph or a rotograph of the passage required, which was at once more trustworthy and more acceptable than the best hand-made transcript could possibly be. In confirmation of this view, it may not be out of place to quote a passage from a letter recently received from a correspondent in Canada, to whom a rotograph had been sent in response to his request for a transcript of a passage from one of our Latin manuscripts. Our correspondent writes: "Your letter . . . together with the rotograph facsimiles of the text of the version of the 'De formula honestae vitae' has reached me safely, and I desire to express my very real appreciation of your courtesy and kindness, in not only answering my letter of enquiry at once, but also by means of the rotograph putting me in full possession of the text, so that there can be in my mind no question of the readings. It is courtesy like this which helps to make the way of a student easier and more pleasant than it otherwise would be. . . ."

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO.

With the object of increasing the facilities for advanced study which the library offers, every attention has been paid to the improvement of the equipment, especially in the gallery alcoves of the main reading room, which are now reserved for students who are conducting special research. This accommodation is much coveted by readers, in consequence of the greater freedom from distraction which it offers, and also because each alcove is furnished with a small standing-press, in which they may keep out, from day to day, the works which they require for continuous study. These seats are allotted to students in the order of their application, and, as a rule, for the whole of the session. Indeed, such has been the increasing demand for this accommodation during the last few years, that invariably every seat has been allotted before the session opens. This constant solicitude on the part of the governors for the comfort of readers has evoked expressions of unqualified gratitude and appreciation.

EQUIPMENT.

Throughout the period covered by the war the service of the library was maintained, as nearly as possible, at the regular level of its efficiency, in spite of the absence of eleven members of the staff who enlisted in H.M. Forces, in one capacity or another, in response to the call of King and Country. This continuance of the service was rendered possible by the loyal and untiring devotion of those officials who, from one cause or another, were exempt from active military duties.

THE LIBRARY DURING THE WAR.

It is true that several important pieces of work, which were in contemplation at the outbreak of war, had to be set aside in consequence of the absence of so large a proportion of the staff, but that was not to be wondered at, for plans conceived in time of peace naturally change and shrink under the strain and stress of war.

Of the members of the staff referred to as having been absent on active service, ten returned to duty, glad to exchange life in the army for the peaceful atmosphere of the library, but we have to deplore the loss of Captain O. J. Sutton, M.C., whose death deprived the library of a trustworthy and valued assistant, who had been associated with the institution from the time of its inauguration until he was called up for active service in August, 1914.

One piece of war-work, to which the governors may point with

pardonable pride, is represented by the assistance which the library has been able to render to the authorities of the University of Louvain in their heavy task of making good the ruin wrought by the war, by providing them with the nucleus of a new library to replace the famous collection of books and manuscripts which had been so ruthlessly destroyed by the Germans in August, 1914.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LOUVAIN LIBRARY.

Within four months of the perpetration of that wanton act, the new library was already rising, phœnix-like, out of the ruins of the old one, as a result of the scheme of replacement which grew out of the desire on the part of the governors to give some practical expression to their deep feelings of sympathy with the authorities of Louvain. This they felt could best be accomplished by means of a gift of books, and forthwith the offer of an initial group of two hundred volumes was made. The offer was gratefully accepted, and acknowledged as the first contribution which had been effectually made to the future library of Louvain, but as Belgium was at that time in the occupation of the Germans, and the members of the University were scattered and in exile, the governors were requested to house their gift until such time as the country had been freed from the presence of the invaders, and the University had been repatriated.

Having gladly undertaken this service, it occurred to the writer that there must be many other libraries and learned institutions, as well as private individuals, who would welcome the opportunity of sharing in such a project, and, with a view of inviting their co-operation, an announcement was made in the subsequent issue of the BULLETIN of the library (which appeared in April, 1915), of our willingness to be responsible for the custody and transmission of any suitable works which might be entrusted to us for the purpose. We also announced our intention of preparing a register of the various contributors, with an exact description of their gifts, for presentation with the books when the appropriate time should arrive, to serve as a permanent record of this united effort to repair at least some of the damage which had been wrought by the war.

Our appeal met with an immediate and generous response, which has continued unabated throughout the nine years that have elapsed since it was first made public. One of the most pleasing features of that response has been that all classes of the community, not only in

this country, but in many parts of the English-speaking world, as well as in several of the allied and neutral countries, have participated in it. Many of the gifts may be said to partake of the sanctity of a sacrifice, since they consist of treasured possessions which had been acquired by struggling students through the exercise of economy and self-denial.

Early in 1916 a national committee was formed, upon the initiative of the President and Secretary of the British Academy, to co-operate with the governors in the development of the scheme which they had already inaugurated. This resulted in a new impulse being given to the movement.

Reports of progress, coupled with new appeals for help, have been made from time to time in the pages of the BULLETIN, with encouraging results. In one of our appeals we explained that, whilst keeping in view the general character of the library which we had in contemplation, we were at the same time anxious that it should be thoroughly representative of English scholarship, in other words that its equipment should include the necessary materials for research on the history, language, and literature of our own country, together with the contributions which British scholars have made to other departments of learning. The attainment of that object has been made possible by the ready and generous co-operation of many of the learned societies, universities, university presses, and leading publishers.

In this connection it may not be out of place to quote a few sentences from a letter received from Professor A. van Hoonacker, in which he refers to the character of the British contribution in the following terms :

". . . The restoration of our library is progressing splendidly, and it is gratifying to acknowledge for us that the most valuable contributions by far are those of our English friends. Our debt of gratitude towards the Rylands Library is very great indeed and can never be forgotten. Our library will be a historical monument in a special way : it is going to be for its best part an English library."

Throughout the nine years during which the scheme has been in operation, gifts of books, in large or in small consignments, have been reaching us almost daily. In order to obviate the risk of having collections of volumes dumped upon us indiscriminately, we have been careful to invite prospective donors to send to us, in the first instance, lists of the works they desired to offer, so that we might have the

opportunity of respectfully declining anything deemed to be unsuitable, or of which a copy had already been contributed by some other donor. In this way we were able to secure for our friends at Louvain a really live and magnificent collection of books, embracing all departments of knowledge.

The work of receiving, rebinding or repairing such volumes as were not quite sound in their covers, of registering, cataloguing, repacking, and making them ready for shipment, in addition to the other operations referred to, has been, at times, a serious tax upon the resources of the library, but the work has been regarded as a labour of love by the various members of the staff who have participated in it, and, thanks to their loyal and at times self-sacrificing devotion, the project has been carried through to a successful issue, without any serious interference with the regular routine and service of the library.

In January, 1919, not only was Belgium freed from the hateful presence of the invaders, but the University of Louvain was repatriated by the return of the authorities to the devastated scene of their former activities and triumphs, there to assemble their scattered students, to resume their accustomed work, and to take a prominently active part in the immediate business of effecting a transition to a peace footing, as well as in the educational and other schemes of reconstruction which were already taking shape.

One of the first essentials in the organization of any University is a library. It was not surprising, therefore, to learn that, in the absence of this essential part of the University's equipment, the work of the students during the first session of their revival had been seriously hampered. Fortunately this was a deficiency that was remedied during the ensuing session. Temporary premises were secured to serve as library and reading-room pending the erection of the new library building, and it was our privilege to assist in the furnishing of its shelves with an up-to-date collection of books designed to meet the immediate requirements of staff and students.

As evidence of the success of this scheme it needs only to be stated that, since December, 1919, we have had the pleasure of transferring to Louvain 622 cases, containing no fewer than 49,005 volumes, forming the splendid collection of books which had been gradually accumulated here in the John Rylands Library as the outcome of these combined efforts.

From the first the Governors have recognized the advantages of employing the printing press for disseminating information concerning the varied contents of the library, in order that scholars throughout the world should have the means of ascertaining something of their character and importance. To this end they have sanctioned the production of a number of catalogues and other publications, many of which have come to be regarded as valuable contributions to the study of the subjects with which they deal.

PUBLICATIONS.

It should be pointed out, however, that the first publications to be issued in connection with the library, were prepared and printed at the expense of Mrs. Rylands, and were ready for distribution immediately after the inauguration ceremony had taken place. They consisted of the "Catalogue of the Printed Books and Manuscripts" with which the library commenced its career, forming three volumes in quarto; a special "Catalogue of the Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and of Books in English Printed Abroad, to the Year 1640," in one volume uniform with the aforesaid general catalogue; and a sumptuous folio volume furnished with twenty-six collotype facsimiles and many engravings, in which the collection of English Bibles printed between 1525 and 1640 are fully described from the bibliographical standpoint.

The first publication to be issued under the auspices of the governors, and one of the most important and ambitious catalogues hitherto published by the library, was issued in 1909, under the title "Catalogue of the Demotic Papyri in the John Rylands Library," by F. Ll. Griffith, in 3 vols., 4to. It was the first issue of the series of descriptive guides or catalogues to the collection of Oriental and Western manuscripts in the possession of the library, but it was something more than a catalogue, since it included collotype facsimiles of the whole of the documents, lithographed hand-made transcripts in which faint and obliterated passages have been reconstructed, with transliterations, complete translations, valuable introductions, very full notes, and a glossary, representing, in the estimation of scholars, the most important contribution to the study of Demotic hitherto published. It was the result of nearly ten years of persistent labour on the part of the editor, who is Professor of Egyptology at the University of Oxford.

This was followed in the same year by the "Catalogue of Coptic

Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library," by W. E. Crum, in one volume uniform with the former. In this also, many of the texts were reproduced *in extenso*, and in facsimile. The collection includes a series of private letters considerably older than any hitherto known in Coptic, in addition to many manuscripts of great historical and theological interest.

In 1911 the first volume appeared of the "Catalogue of Greek Papyri . . . " by Dr. A. S. Hunt, which dealt with the literary texts in the collection. These texts were reproduced *in extenso*, some of them in facsimile, and comprise many interesting Biblical, liturgical, and classical papyri, ranging from the third century B.C. to the sixth century A.D. Included are probably the earliest known text of the "Nicene Creed," also one of the earliest known vellum codices, containing a considerable fragment of the "Odyssey," probably of the last decades of the third century A.D., which is included amongst the papyrus documents with which its date and Egyptian provenance naturally associate it. The second volume appeared in 1915. It dealt with the documents of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods, and was compiled by Dr. A. S. Hunt, J. de M. Johnson, and Victor Martin. The volume runs to upwards of 500 pages, and deals with 400 papyri, consisting mainly of non-literary documents of an official or legal character, as distinguished from the literary documents forming the subject matter of the first volume. The chief interest centres in the description of the collection of carbonised papyri from Thmûis, which were found, without doubt, in the ruined buildings of Tell Timai, partly excavated by the Egypt Exploration Fund during 1892-93, the chambers of which were found choked by a medley of decayed rolls, and it is interesting to learn that the documents printed in this volume form the largest body yet published from that source. The students of New Testament Greek, and of the history of the period covered by this group of documents, especially in relation to law, economics, and taxation in Egypt during the Roman occupation, will find a mass of useful information, not only in the documents themselves, but in the exhaustive and illuminating notes by which they are accompanied.

In the same year (1915), another interesting quarto volume made its appearance, under the title : "Sumerian tablets from Umma in the John Rylands Library," transcribed, transliterated, and translated by

C. L. Bedale. This volume was of considerable interest, since it made available for study the first batch of tablets from this particular site at Umma, which had been acquired for the library some years earlier at the suggestion of the late Professor Hogg and Canon Johns. The work of editing the collection was to have been undertaken by Professor Hogg, but death intervened, and Mr. Bedale, who succeeded him as lecturer in Assyriology at the University of Manchester, very gladly undertook the task with the assistance of Canon Johns, producing a piece of work which reflected credit not only upon the editor, but also upon the library.

In 1909 a series of reprints was commenced, to be known as "The John Rylands Facsimiles," the object of which was to make more readily accessible to students, by means of faithful facsimile reproductions, some of the most interesting and important of the rarer books and prints which are in the possession of the library, and, at the same time, to avert the disaster and loss to scholarship involved in the destruction by fire or otherwise of such unique and rare literary treasures, when they have not been multiplied by some such method of reproduction.

The first work to be treated in this way was the "Propositio Johannis Russell, printed by William Caxton, *circa* A.D., 1476," edited with an introduction by Henry Guppy. The library copy of this tract of six printed pages, from which the facsimile was prepared, was for many years considered to be unique. Since then, however, another copy has been discovered in the library of the Earl of Leicester at Holkham Hall. It consists of the Latin oration, pronounced by the Chancellor of England, on the investiture of Charles, Duke of Burgundy, with the order of the Garter, in February, 1469, and is printed in the second fount of type employed by Caxton.

The second issue appeared in the following year (1910), and consisted of a reproduction of what is believed to be the sole surviving copy of a quaint little rhyming primer, which had the laudable object of instructing the young in the names of trades, professions, ranks, and common objects of daily life in their own tongue. The lists were rhymed, and therefore were easy to commit to memory, and they are pervaded by a certain vein of humour. The title of the volume is as follows: "A Booke in Englysh Metre, of the Great Marchaunt man called 'Dives Pragmaticus' . . . 1563." It was edited with an introduction

by Percy E. Newberry ; and remarks on the vocabulary and dialect with a glossary, by Henry C. Wyld.

The third issue, which appeared also in 1910, was the reproduction of a tract of nine leaves on the Pestilence, written by Benedict Kanuti, or Knutsson, Bishop of Västerâs, of which three separate editions are known, but only one copy of each is believed to have survived. There is no indication in any edition of the place of printing, date or name of printer, but they are all printed in one of the first types employed by William de Machlinia, who printed in the city of London at the time when William Caxton was at the most active period of his career at Westminster. The title of the work is as follows : "A Litel Boke the whiche traytied and reherced many gode thinges necessaries for the . . . Pestilence . . . made by the Bishop of Arusiens . . ." [1485]. Edited, with an introduction, by Guthrie Vine.

The fourth publication of this series was issued in 1915, and took the form of a portfolio of facsimiles of eight early engravings, which are preserved in the library, under the title : "Woodcuts of the Fifteenth Century in the John Rylands Library. . . . With an introduction and descriptive notes by Campbell Dodgson." Two of the woodcuts dealt with are of exceptional interest, and have been known and celebrated for a century and a half, but had not hitherto been reproduced in a satisfactory and trustworthy manner by any of the modern photo-mechanical processes. The two woodcuts referred to represent "St. Christopher" and "The Annunciation," the former of which has acquired a great celebrity by reason of the unquestioned date (1423) which it bears, and which until recently gave it the unchallenged position of the first dated woodcut. These two have been reproduced in the exact colours of the originals as well as in monochrome. The metal dotted print of the "Passion" scene is probably the finest extant example of this description of engraving. Indeed, all the engravings reproduced are said to be unique. The governors were fortunate in being able to secure the services of Mr. Dodgson, the recognized authority on such matters, in the preparation of the text, since the presence of his name on the title-page gives at once an authority and distinction to the volume.

The first two volumes of the "Catalogue of Latin Manuscripts," compiled by Dr. M. Rhodes James, appeared in 1921. It was com-

menced many years ago, in the first place by arrangement with the Earl of Crawford, and later under a new arrangement with Mrs. Rylands, and the governors. The manuscripts described in this first instalment of the catalogue comprise 183 rolls and codices, which include the small group contained in the Althorp Library, in addition to the Crawford collection, and a number of cartularies and similar manuscripts which have since been acquired from the Phillipps and other sales. The first volume contains the catalogue proper, which extends to 400 pages, whilst the second consists of a thoroughly representative set of 187 facsimiles of characteristic pages of the manuscripts dealt with.

The first volume of the new and standard edition of the "Odes and Psalms of Solomon," edited by Dr. Rendel Harris and Dr. A. Mingana, appeared in 1916. It furnished for the first time a facsimile of the original Syriac manuscript, now in the possession of the John Rylands Library, accompanied by a retranscribed text, with an attached critical apparatus. This was followed in 1920 by the second volume, which comprises a new translation of the "Odes" in English versicles, with brief comments by way of elucidation, an exhaustive introduction dealing with the variations of the fragment in the British Museum, with the original language, the probable epoch of their composition, their unity, the stylistic method of their first writer, the accessory patristic testimonies, a summary of the most important criticisms that have appeared since its first publication in 1909, a complete bibliography of the subject, and a glossary of the text.

In 1917 there were republished in one volume, under the title "The Ascent of Olympus," four interesting articles by Dr. Rendel Harris on the Greek cults, which had appeared at intervals in the BULLETIN. They were republished as nearly as possible in their original form, but with some corrections, expansions, justifications, and additional illustrations.

Another volume which attracted much attention, and elicited a good deal of healthy criticism at the time of its appearance, in the early part of 1918, consisted of an elaboration of three lectures delivered in the John Rylands Library by Professor G. Elliot Smith: "The Birth of Aphrodite," "Incense and Libations," and "Dragons and Rain-gods," which make a substantial volume of 250 pages, with numerous illustrations, under the title of "The Evolution of the Dragon."

Two pieces of pioneer work were carried out in the course of 1909, which it was hoped would lead to far-reaching developments. The first marked a new stage in library administration and co-operation, since it was the first catalogue of its kind to appear in this country or abroad. It consisted of a "Classified Catalogue of Works on Architecture and the Allied Arts in the Principal Libraries of Manchester and Salford," edited con-jointly by the Librarian and Sub-Librarian, for the Joint Architectural Committee of the Manchester University and the Manchester Education Committee. It is a volume of 336 pages, in which the main entries are arranged according to the Dewey Decimal system of classification, followed by alphabetical author and subject indexes. By means of this guide, in which the location of the various books is clearly shown, it is possible to determine at a glance whether any particular work is contained in one or other of the twelve principal libraries of the district, and where.

The second of these pioneer volumes: "An Analytical Catalogue of the Contents of the Two Editions of the English Garner," was printed with the object of emphasising the need for analytical treatment of composite works of such a character. It was also intended to demonstrate the practicability of placing the work of one library at the service of other libraries at a small cost, and for that reason it was printed in such a way that the entries could be cut up and utilized for insertion in any cumulative catalogue. It was also felt that it would be of service to the students of the history and literature of our own country, since it provides a key to a storehouse of pamphlets, broadsides, and occasional verses, which are collected in the "Garner," and are practically unobtainable elsewhere.

Other publications have been issued, as occasion demanded, in the form of descriptive catalogues of the exhibitions arranged from time to time in the main library, either to signalise the visit of some learned society, or to mark the commemoration of some anniversary of literary or historical interest. These need not be enumerated here, as they are briefly described in the accompanying full list of publications, together with many other miscellaneous items which do not call for special mention.

In the year 1903 the publication of the BULLETIN OF THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY was commenced with the object of providing a medium of communication between the library and its readers, and at the

same time of making clear to all lovers of literature the great possibilities which such a library holds out. It was continued by annual issues until 1908, when, by reason of the exigencies of other work, it was found necessary to suspend publication until the more urgent claims of the library had been satisfied.

In October, 1914, publication was resumed in consequence of repeated inquiries for the BULLETIN, which seemed to reveal a real need for some such link between the library and those interested in its welfare. Such was the enthusiastic welcome accorded to it in its revived form, coupled with the generous response on the part of scholars to our appeals for help in the shape of contributions, that we are encouraged to believe that our aim to secure for this periodical, by the publication of a regular succession of original articles, a greater permanence as a literary organ, is at least in process of accomplishment. Many of these articles consist of elaborations of the lectures delivered in the library, the character and importance of which may be gathered from a glance at the accompanying list of reprints.

A certain number of catalogues and other publications are either in the printer's hands, ready for the press, or are in active preparation.

The first is "A Catalogue of English Incunabula in the John Rylands Library." This will be uniform with the catalogues of manuscripts, and will probably extend to 200 pages. It will consist of an accurate bibliographical description of the library's collection of English books printed before 1501, including of course the sixty Caxtons. It will furnish full collations, notes as to provenance, and incidentally, each volume, by means of this treatment, will be made to tell its own story, so often hidden in the prologues, epilogues, and colophons in which the early translators, editors, and printers delighted to indulge. It will be illustrated by facsimiles of pages from some of the rarer items in the collection.

The "Catalogue of Books in the John Rylands Library, printed in Great Britain, and of English Books printed abroad, between 1474 and 1640" is also ready for the printer, and work upon it will be commenced as soon as ways and means render it practicable. It is calculated that it will form two or three quarto volumes, uniform with the preceding catalogue, and will furnish complete bibliographical descriptions of the rich collection of books with which it deals. It is

designed to be of service not only to users of the library, but to bibliographers and students of English literature in general.

In the course of the examination and description of the library's collection of Arabic manuscripts, upon which Dr. Mingana is at present engaged, many of them have been invested with a new importance by reason of the unusual palæographical and textual interest which they have been found to possess. One volume of modest appearance and dimensions has proved to be of quite exceptional importance. It consists of an "Apology of the Muhammadan Faith," by a learned Muhammadan doctor, named Ali b. Rabbān at-Tabari, who died about A.D. 864. The character of the work is indicated in the title under which the volume has been published, "THE BOOK OF RELIGION AND EMPIRE: a semi-official defence and exposition of Islam written by order at the court of, and with the assistance of the Caliph Mutawakkil (A.D. 847-861) by Ali Tabari. Translated with a critical apparatus from an apparently unique manuscript in the John Rylands Library, by A. Mingana, D.D." It forms a demy octavo volume of 198 pages.

Hitherto, as far as we have been able to ascertain, no such apology of Islam, of so early a date, and of such outstanding importance, by a learned Muhammadan doctor has been known to exist. The work is of first-rate importance to the Muslim, and not of less importance to every Oriental scholar, whilst to those interested in theological questions it cannot fail to be of interest. It follows generally the "Apology of the Christian Faith" of Al Kindi, which the author possibly intended to refute. One of the outstanding features of the work is that it contains about 130 long Biblical quotations to prove the divine mission of the Prophet. These quotations follow the Syriac Version of the Bible, said in the manuscript to have been translated by an unknown author called "Marcus the Translator." Dr. Mingana believes that the problem of "Marcus the Translator," may be satisfactorily solved in the following manner: In the still unpublished repertory of the East Syrian exegesis, entitled "Gannath Bussāme," a tradition is registered to the effect that the Hebrew text of the Old Testament was translated into the Syriac Peshitta by the disciple Mark, probably Mark the Evangelist himself. The Syriac statement of the "Gannath" is translated as follows: "Some people report that Mark himself translated the Old Testament from Hebrew into Syriac, and that he

presented his translation to James the brother of Our Lord and to the Apostles, who appended their approbation to it and gave it to the inhabitants of Syria."

An edition of the original text in Arabic, printed for the Governors in Cairo, was published in 1923, and has met with a most enthusiastic reception from Muslim and other scholars in the East.

Other catalogues in preparation are—

"Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts (codices). . . ." By Dr A. Mingana.

"Catalogue of Arabic Papyri. . . ." By Professor Margoliouth.

"Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts. . . ."

"Catalogue of Samaritan Manuscripts. . . ."

"Catalogue of Syriac Manuscripts. . . ." By Dr. A. Mingana.

"Catalogue of Greek Papyri. . . . Vol. 3. Documents of the Byzantine Period." By Dr. A. S. Hunt.

The following is a full list of the publications issued by the Library between the years 1899 and 1924.

CATALOGUES, HAND-LISTS, DESCRIPTIVE NOTES AND TRANSLATIONS OF, OR RELATING TO, MANUSCRIPTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

CATALOGUE OF THE DEMOTIC PAPYRI IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. With facsimiles and complete translations. By F. Ll. Griffith, M.A. 1909. 3 vols. 4to.

Vol. 1. Atlas of facsimiles in collotype. Vol. 2. Lithographed hand copies of the earlier documents. Vol. 3. Key-list, translations, commentaries, and indexes.

*** This is something more than a catalogue, since it includes collotype facsimiles of the whole of the documents, with transliterations, translations, valuable introductions, very full notes, and a glossary of Demotic, representing, in the estimation of scholars, the most important contribution to the study of Demotic hitherto published.

CATALOGUE OF THE COPTIC MANUSCRIPTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. By W. E. Crum, M.A. 1909. 4to, pp. xii, 273. 12 plates of facsimiles, in collotype.

*** The collection includes a series of private letters considerably older than any in Coptic hitherto known, in addition to many manuscripts of great theological and historical interest. Many of the texts are reproduced *in extenso*.

NEW COPTIC MANUSCRIPTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. By W. E. Crum. 1920. 8vo, pp. 7.

*** Descriptive notes of a few Coptic pieces on papyrus and vellum which have been acquired since the publication of the aforementioned catalogue in 1909.

CATALOGUE OF THE GREEK PAPYRI IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. By Arthur S. Hunt, M.A., Litt.D., J. de M. Johnson, M.A., and Victor Martin, D. ès L. Vol. 1: Literary texts (Nos. 1-61). 1911. 4to, pp. xii, 204. 10 plates of facsimiles in collotype. Vol. 2: Documents of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods (Nos. 62-456). 1916. 4to, pp. xx, 488. 23 plates in collotype.

*** The texts are reproduced *in extenso*, and comprise many interesting Biblical, liturgical, classical papyri, and non-literary documents of an official or legal character ranging from the third century B.C. to the sixth century A.D.

CATALOGUE OF THE LATIN MANUSCRIPTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. Nos. 1-183. By Montague Rhodes James, Litt.D., etc. 2 vols. 4to. 187 plates of facsimiles.

Vol. 1. Descriptive catalogue, with indexes of contents, place names, proper names, saints, illustrations, etc. Pp. xvi, 328.
Vol. 2. 187 facsimiles in collotype.

*** The collection here described includes examples, of first-class quality, of the art and calligraphy of most of the great writing schools of Europe.

HAND-LIST OF ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION OF LATIN MANUSCRIPTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, 1908-1920 (Nos. 184-332). By R. Fawtier, D. ès L. 1921. 8vo, pp. 21.

*** The MSS. dealt with in this temporary hand-list represent the additions, to the number of 149, to the Latin section of the Western MSS., which were acquired for the library between the years 1908 and 1920. They include several very important service books, cartularies, royal wardrobe books, and other interesting historical and theological items.

HAND-LIST OF THE MAINWARING AND JODRELL MANUSCRIPTS, at present in the custody of the John Rylands Library. By R. Fawtier, D. ès L. 8vo, pp. 48.

*** The collections dealt with have been deposited in the library, on loan, for safe custody, and include a number of interesting early charters (many of which date back to the time of Edward I.), diaries, household books, literary papers, and other deeds and evidences relating to the Cheshire estates and families of Mainwaring, who have been seated in Cheshire ever since the Conquest, and of Jodrell, who have been seated there certainly since 1357.

SUMERIAN TABLETS FROM UMMA IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. . . . Transcribed, transliterated, and translated by C. L. Bedale, M.A. . . . With a foreword by Canon C. H. W. Johns, M.A., Litt.D. 1915. 4to, pp. xvi, 16, with 10 facsimiles.

*** This thin quarto consists of a description of fifty-eight tablets, forming part of the collection recently acquired by the library.

BRIEF NOTES ON SOME OF THE RARER OR UNIQUE ARABIC AND PERSIAN-ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. By A. Mingana, D.D. 1922. 8vo, pp. 9.

*** The object of these notes is to direct attention to works of importance in the particular field of research to which they belong, the very existence of which would otherwise remain unknown until the full catalogue, which is in preparation, is published ; since the whole of the items dealt with are either unique or of such rare occurrence as to render them almost so.

AN IMPORTANT OLD TURKI MANUSCRIPT IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. By A. Mingana, D.D. 1915. 8vo, pp. 12, with two facsimiles.

*** The MS. referred to is a trilingual copy of the Kurân in fourteen volumes. The languages, which are interlinear, are Arabic, Persian, and Old Turki.

"FILIA MAGISTRI": un abrégé des sentences de Pierre Lombard. Notes sur un manuscrit latin conservé à la Bibliothèque John Rylands. By Raymond M. Martin, O.P. 1915. 8vo, pp. 12.

SOME EARLY JUDÆO-CHRISTIAN DOCUMENTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. 1. A new life of Clement of Rome. 2. The book of Shem, son of Noah. 3. Fragment from the Philosopher Andronicus and Asaph, the Historian of the Jews. Syriac Texts edited with translations by A. Mingana, D.D. 1917. 8vo, pp. 62.

THE BOOK OF RELIGION AND EMPIRE. A semi-official defence and exposition of Islām, written by order at the Court and with the assistance of the Caliph Mutawakkil (A.D. 847-861). By Ali Tabari. Translated with a critical apparatus from an apparently unique MS. in the John Rylands Library by A. Mingana, D.D. 192 . 8vo, pp. xxiv, 174.

—— The same in the original Arabic Text. 1923. 8vo, pp. 146.

CATALOGUES OF PRINTED BOOKS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

CATALOGUE OF THE PRINTED BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. 1899. 3 vols. 4to.

*** A brief-title author catalogue of the printed books, including the Althorp collection, and the few manuscripts with which the library shelves were equipped at the time of its inauguration.

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY PRINTED IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND, and of Books in English printed abroad to the end of the Year 1640. 1895. 4to, pp. iii, 147.

*** A brief-title author catalogue, with an index of printers, under which is a chronological list of books printed by them.

THE ENGLISH BIBLE IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, 1525 to 1640. By Richard Lovett. 1899. Fol., pp. xvi, 275, with twenty-six facsimiles in collotype, and thirty-nine engravings.

*** Of this sumptuous volume only 100 copies were printed for private circulation by Mrs. Rylands.

A CLASSIFIED CATALOGUE OF THE WORKS ON ARCHITECTURE AND THE ALLIED ARTS IN THE PRINCIPAL LIBRARIES OF MANCHESTER AND SALFORD, with alphabetical author list and subject index. Edited for the Architectural Committee of Manchester by Henry Guppy, M.A., and Guthrie Vine, M.A. 1909. 8vo, pp. xxv, 310.

*** This catalogue is the first of its kind to be issued, with the exception of a few union lists of periodicals and incunabula.

THE JOHN RYLANDS FACSIMILES.

A series of reproductions of some of the more interesting and important of the rarer books in the possession of the library. The volumes consist of minutely accurate facsimiles of the works selected, preceded by bibliographical introductions.

PROPOSITIO JOHANNIS RUSSELL, printed by William Caxton, *circa* A.D. 1476. . . . With an introduction by Henry Guppy, M.A. 1909. 8vo, pp. 36, 8.

*** An oration, pronounced by John Russell, Chancellor of England, on the investiture of Charles, Duke of Burgundy, with the Order of the Garter, in February, 1469, at Ghent. For many years the copy now in the John Rylands Library was considered to be unique. Until 1807 it lay buried and unnoticed in the heart of a volume of manuscripts, with which it had evidently been bound up by mistake. Since then, another copy has been discovered in the library at Holkham Hall, the seat of the Earl of Leicester.

A BOOKE IN ENGLYSH METRE, of the Great Marchaunt man called "Dives Pragmaticus" . . . 1563. . . . With an introduction by Percy E. Newbery, M.A.; and remarks on the vocabulary and dialect with a glossary by Henry C. Wyld, M.A. 1910. 4to, pp xxxviii, 16.

*** The tract here reproduced is believed to be the sole surviving copy of a quaint little primer which had the laudable object of instructing the young in the names of trades, professions, ranks, and common objects of daily life in their own tongue.

A LITIL BOKE the whiche traytied and reherced many gode thinges necessaries for the . . . Pestilence . . . made by the . . . Bisshop of Arusiens . . . [London], [1485?]. . . . With an introduction by Guthrie Vine, M.A. 1910. 4to, pp. xxxvi, 18.

*** Of this little tract, consisting of nine leaves, written by Benedict Kanuti, or Knutsson, Bishop of Våsteras, three separate editions are known, but only one copy of each, and an odd leaf are known to have survived. There is no indication in any edition of the place of printing, date or name of printer, but they are all printed in one of the five types employed by William de Machlinia, who printed first in partnership with John Lettou and afterwards alone in the City of London, at the time when William Caxton was at the most active period of his career at Westminster.

WOODCUTS OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. Reproduced in facsimile. With an introduction and descriptive notes by Campbell Dodgson, M.A. Folio. Ten plates, of which two are in colour, and 16 pp. of text, in a portfolio.

*** Two of these woodcuts are of exceptional interest and importance, and have been known and celebrated for a century and a half, but have not hitherto been reproduced in a satisfactory manner by any of the modern photo-mechanical processes. The two woodcuts referred to represent "St. Christopher" and "The Annunciation," the former of which has acquired a great celebrity by reason of the date (1423) which it bears, and which, until recently, gave to it the unchallenged position of the first dated woodcut.

THE ODES AND PSALMS OF SOLOMON. Facsimile in collotype of the original Syriac manuscript in the John Rylands Library, accompanied by a typographical reprint or transliteration of the text, a revised translation in English Versicles, and an exhaustive introduction dealing with the variations of the fragmentary manuscripts in the British Museum, the accessory patristic testimonies, and a summary of the most important criticisms that have appeared since its first publication in 1909. By J. Rendel Harris, M.A., D.Litt., etc., Hon. Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, and Alphonse Mingana, D.D. 2 vols. 4to.

Vol. 1: The text, with facsimile reproductions. Vol. 2: Translation and introduction.

EXHIBITION CATALOGUES.

CATALOGUE OF THE MANUSCRIPTS, BOOKS, AND BOOK-BINDINGS EXHIBITED AT THE OPENING OF THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, October 6th, 1899. 1899. 8vo, pp. 41.

THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY: a brief description of the building and its contents, with a descriptive list of the works exhibited in the main library. By Henry Guppy. 1902. 8vo, pp. 47.

CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION OF BIBLES IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, illustrating the history of the English versions from Wiclif to the present time. Including the personal copies of Queen Elizabeth, General Gordon, and Elizabeth Fry. 1904. 8vo, pp. 32.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY AND ITS CONTENTS, with catalogue of the selection of early printed Greek and Latin classics exhibited on the occasion of the visit of the Classical Association in October MCMVI. 1906. 8vo, pp. 89. With plates.

CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION OF BIBLES IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, illustrating the history of the English versions from Wiclif to the present time, including the personal copies of Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth Fry, and others. 1907. 8vo, pp. vii, 55. With plates.

CATALOGUE OF THE SELECTION OF BOOKS AND BROADSIDES ILLUSTRATING THE EARLY HISTORY OF PRINTING, exhibited in the John Rylands Library on the occasion of the visit of the Federation of Master Printers and Allied Trades in June, MCMVII. 1907. 8vo, pp. v, 34.

CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION OF ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS, PRINCIPALLY BIBLICAL AND LITURGICAL, exhibited in the John Rylands Library on the occasion of the meeting of the Church Congress in October, MCMVIII. 1908. 8vo, pp. vii, 62. With plates.

CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION OF THE ORIGINAL EDITIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL WORKS OF JOHN MILTON, arranged in celebration of the tercentenary of his birth. 1908. 8vo, pp. 24.

CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF DANTE ALIGHIERI, shown in the John Rylands Library from March to October, MCMIX. 1909. 8vo, pp. xii, 55.

CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL EDITIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL ENGLISH CLASSICS, shown in the John Rylands Library from March to October, MCMX. 1910. 8vo, pp. xv, 64.

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MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS.

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*** This was written to commemorate the library's coming of age.

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*** Compiled, translated, and edited from a twelfth century MS. recently acquired by the John Rylands Library, and another MS. in Jesus College, Cambridge.

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*** A reprint, with corrections, expansions, justifications, and additional illustrations, of the four articles on Greek Mythology: Aphrodite, Apollo, Artemis, and Dionysos, which have appeared in the "Bulletin" from time to time.

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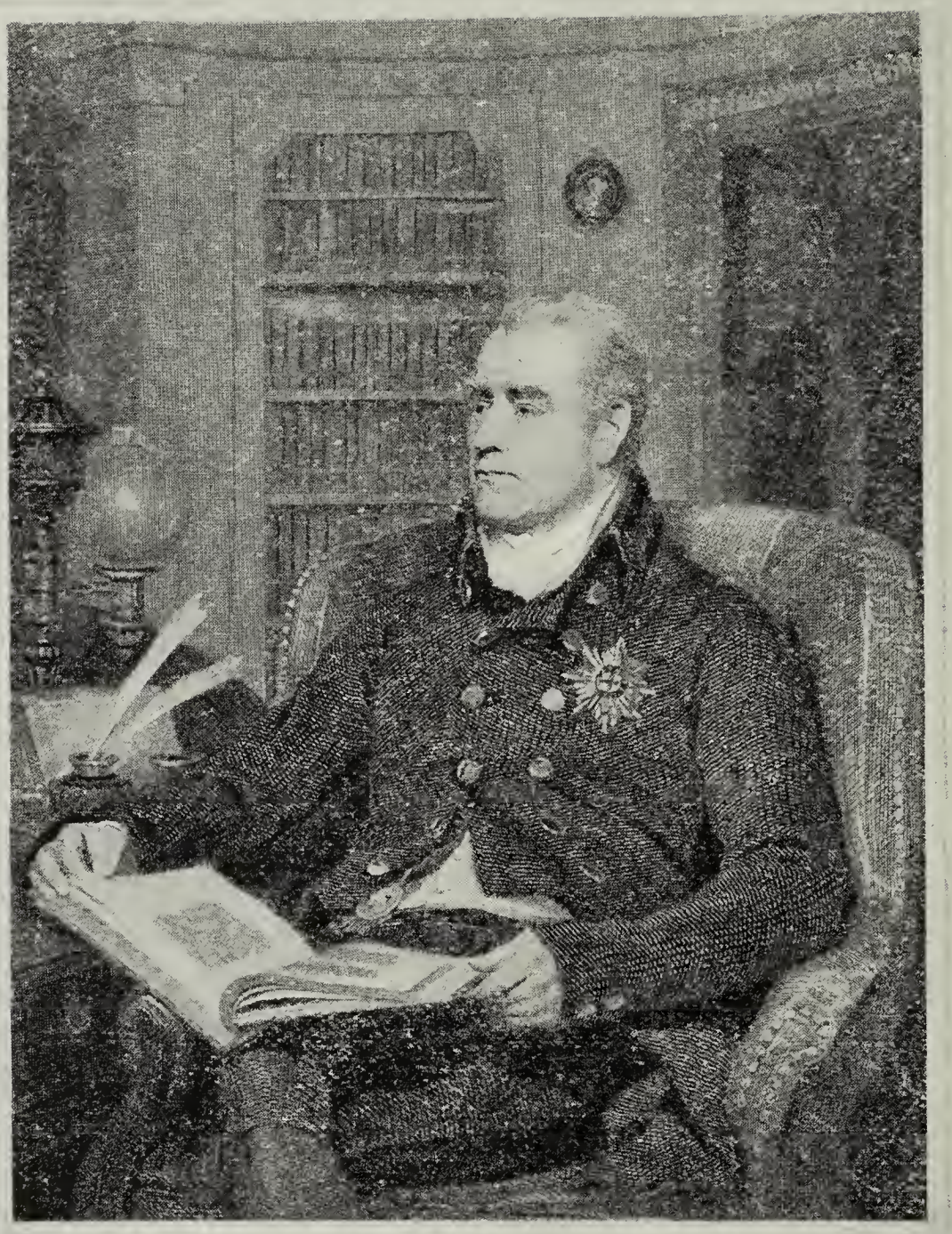
THE CONTENTS OF THE LIBRARY.

It is impossible within the limits of such a short volume as the present to convey anything like an adequate idea of the interest and importance of the contents of the Library, comprising as they do to-day some 300,000 printed books and 10,000 manuscripts, many of which merit extended notice. To do justice to any one of the many sections, would require a volume of considerable length ; and yet this sketch would be obviously incomplete without some reference, however brief, to at least a few of the most noteworthy of the features which have made it famous in the world of books.

Apart from any other consideration we feel this to be necessary, for we are constantly reminded of the fact that there are still many students interested in the various fields of research which the library covers, who have but a vague idea of the range and character of its contents.

As a preface to this survey of the contents, it will not be out of place to sketch very briefly the history of the formation of the Althorp Library, which, although but a part of the John Rylands Library, is by common consent one of the most splendid parts.



6. GEORGE JOHN, SECOND EARL SPENCER. FOUNDER OF THE ALTHORP LIBRARY

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FORMATION OF THE ALTHORP LIBRARY.

The formation of the collection was substantially the work of George John, second Earl Spencer, who was born on the 1st September, 1758, and succeeded to the earldom in 1783. Few men have entered life under happier auspices. At seven years of age he was placed under the tutorship of William Jones, the famous Orientalist, who was afterwards knighted, with whom he made two continental tours, visiting libraries as well as courts in their progress. Jones resigned his charge in 1770, when Lord Althorp was sent to Harrow ; but tutor and pupil were in constant correspondence, and maintained an intimate acquaintance until 1783, when the former left England for his Indian judgeship.

As a collector, Lord Spencer did not begin seriously until he was thirty years of age. He had made occasional purchases before that time, but the broad foundation of the Althorp Library, as we now know it, cannot be said to have been fairly laid until Lord Spencer acquired the choice collection of Count de Reviczky in 1790. The possession of that collection at once raised the Althorp Library into importance, and influenced the character of the acquisitions which were most eagerly sought in after days. Indeed, the almost unrivalled condition of many of the later acquisitions make them quite worthy to occupy the same shelves with the cherished volumes of Count Reviczky, and are a lasting memorial of the knowledge, the good taste, and the enthusiasm of the collector who brought them together.

In justice to the memory of the first Earl Spencer, some reference must be made to the part he played in the foundation of the library. He was undoubtedly a book-collector, since he purchased the library of Dr. George, Master of Eton, consisting of 5,000 volumes. Many of these volumes were collections of the smaller pieces of Elizabethan literature, which although looked upon at that time as "tracts" or "miscellanea," have come to be regarded as works of considerable importance, and are now eagerly sought after, as the recent sales of the Britwell Library have revealed. The George "tracts" are still preserved in the John Rylands Library, and may be distinguished by the arms of the first Earl, which he caused to be stamped upon all the books then at Althorp. But the separately bound works, which Dr. George no doubt prized more highly, were gradually weeded out by the second Earl, and replaced by finer copies.

The old Althorp collection was of little importance when com-

pared with the magnificence it ultimately reached under the fostering care of the second Earl. Yet it could not have been without interest, since it won the admiration of Sir William Jones in 1765, and was instrumental in awakening young Spencer's love for books. It remains, however, to be said that the event which, more than anything else, determined the ultimate character and scope of the Althorp Library, was the acquisition of the Reviczky collection.

THE REVICZKY COLLECTION.

Charles Emanuel Alexander, Count Reviczky, was a Hungarian nobleman of considerable fortune, born in Hungary in 1737, and educated at Vienna. He seems to have possessed an exceptional aptitude for acquiring languages, and to have cultivated it during extensive travels both in Europe and in Asia. Besides the great languages of antiquity, and the modern tongues of ordinary attainment, he is said to have acquired thorough familiarity with the languages of Northern Europe, and with a majority of the languages and chief dialects of the East. He had not long returned from the travels he had planned for himself when the Empress Maria Theresa sent him as her ambassador to Warsaw. The Emperor Joseph II gave him similar missions, first in Berlin, and afterwards in London. Everywhere he made himself renowned as a collector of fine books, and especially of the monuments of printing, and won many friends. Some idea of his character and of his eminent accomplishments may be derived from his correspondence with Sir William Jones, who entertained a strong affection for him, and to whom his first introduction to Lord Spencer was probably owing.

The chief characteristic of the Reviczky Library was its extraordinary series of the primary and most choice editions of the Greek and Latin classics. No collector has ever succeeded in amassing a complete series of first editions; but Reviczky, whose researches in this direction were incessant, is believed to have made a nearer approximation to completeness than any previous or contemporary collector.

Next to the "editiones principes et primariæ," it was his aim to gather such of the fine productions of the presses of Aldus, Stephanus, Morel, and Turnebus as were not already included in the primary series, then the Elzevirs, the "Variorum" classics, the Delphin classics, the choice editions of Baskerville, Brindley, Foulis, Tonson, and Barbou, and the curious small-typed productions of the press of Sedan.

Of his classics, Reviczky himself printed, under the pseudonym of "Periergus Deltophilus," a catalogue entitled "Bibliotheca Græca et Latina," copies of which may be seen in the library. This catalogue appeared at Berlin during his embassy in 1784, and, like the three supplements to it subsequently printed, was restricted to private circulation. Ten years later it was published with additions.

If it be true that Reviczky's health was already failing him when he sold his library to Lord Spencer, he gave an unusual instance of disinterestedness in the conditions upon which he insisted. He stipulated for £1,000 down, and an annuity of £500. The bargain was made in 1790, and in August, 1793, the Count died at Vienna, so that, for the moderate sum of £2,500, Lord Spencer acquired the collection of books which was to determine the character of the Althorp Library.

One of Count Reviczky's peculiarities as a collector was an abhorrence of books with manuscript notes, no matter how illustrious the hand from which they came. To him a "liber notatus manu Scaligeri" excited the same repugnance which he would have shown to the scribblings of a schoolboy on the fair margins of a vellum Aldine. What he prized in a fine book was the freshness and purity which show that the copy is still in the condition in which it left the printer. A copy on vellum had a great attraction for him, and he was not insensible to the charms of a "large paper" copy, or of a copy in the original binding.

Lord Spencer was by no means so intolerant of manuscript notes as was Reviczky, but he shared his appreciation of the external beauties of a choice book with a just and keen estimate of its intrinsic merits. And the almost unrivalled condition of many of his later acquisitions make them quite worthy to occupy the same shelves with the cherished volumes of Count Reviczky.

EARL SPENCER AS A COLLECTOR.

The accession of Count Reviczky's books was an epoch-making event in the history of the Althorp Library. It gave direction to Lord Spencer's taste in collecting, and at once placed his library amongst the most important private collections of the time. In 1807 Lord Spencer retired from official life and was enabled to devote himself almost exclusively to literary pursuits, and to making further additions to his library. From this time onward, for something like thirty years, he is said to have haunted the sale-rooms

and booksellers' shops, not only in this country but throughout Europe, in his eagerness to enrich his already famous collection with whatever was fine and rare, even to the purchase of many copies of the same book, in order to exercise the choice of copies.

Lord Spencer's acquaintance with Dr. Thomas Frognal Dibdin, to whom he subsequently entrusted the charge of his library, dates from 1802, from which time a literary correspondence seems to have passed between them for something like thirty years. In 1812 Dibdin commenced the "Bibliotheca Spenceriana" which is a descriptive catalogue of the fifteenth-century books which at that time were kept at Spencer House, but were later removed to Althorp. In the progress of this work Lord Spencer took a very active interest, correcting not only the manuscript sheets but also the proofs. Lord Spencer's interesting letters to Dibdin during those years show what a reliance he placed on his advice and judgment in the selection and purchase of such works as would form a worthy addition to the Spencer Library.

In 1813 the entire library of Mr. Stanesby Alchorne was purchased, so that he might improve his collection of early English books by the addition of some specimens of the presses of William Caxton and Wynkyn de Worde, and in some cases by the substitution of copies of the productions of these printers which were better than those he had previously possessed. After the few advantageous exchanges and the few additions to the Althorp collection already referred to, the bulk of the Alchorne books were sent to Evans, for sale by auction, in the same year in which they had been purchased. Some idea of the rapid growth of the Althorp Library may be formed, when it is pointed out that this was Lord Spencer's fourth sale of duplicates.

Thus, by liberal dealings with booksellers, and by spirited competition at the sales, Lord Spencer continued to enrich his collection. There was yet another way in which he added to the riches of his collection: if the guardians of a public or of a semi-public library were of opinion that they better discharged their duty, as trustees, by parting with some exceedingly rare, but in their present home, unused books, and by applying the proceeds to the acquisition of other much needed works of modern dates, Lord Spencer was willing to acquire the rarities at the full market value, and so supply the means of multiplying the desired books of reference and of reading. Three of the rarest of the Spencer Caxtons were obtained in this way, and in writ-

ing to Dr. Dibdin in 1811, when the transaction was completed, Lord Spencer speaks of it as "a great piece of black letter fortune," and as "a proud day for the library." The authorities from whom the purchase was made also thought it a proud day for their library when between 400 and 500 well-chosen volumes took the place of the dingy little folios which had made Lord Spencer's eyes to glisten and his pulse to beat faster as he tenderly yet covetously turned over their leaves. If a private collector who possessed some special rarities was in difficulties or otherwise anxious to part with them, Lord Spencer was pretty sure to hear of it through his agents, and was always ready, if need be, to buy the collection as a whole for a good round sum.

Another and still more striking instance of Lord Spencer's bold yet successful attempts to enrich the Althorp collection is of sufficient interest to be recorded here. Among the many attractions of the Royal Library at Stuttgart were two editions of Vergil, so rare as to be almost priceless. One was the second of the editions printed in Rome by Sweynheym and Pannartz in 1471 ; the other was an undated edition, printed at Venice, probably in the same year, by the printer Adam of Ammergau. Lord Spencer coveted these volumes, and commissioned Dr. Dibdin to go to Stuttgart in quest of them, despite their royal ownership. After many conferences with the librarian of the King of Wirtemberg, the scheme was submitted to the King, and Dibdin was received in audience, when he dwelt adroitly upon the magnificence of the Stuttgart Library in theology and its comparative insignificance in classics, as affording a reason why a judicious exchange, which should give the means of supplying what was still lacking in the former class at the mere cost of a couple of Vergils, would strengthen his Majesty's library rather than weaken it. The King gave his assent, provided the details of the exchange were made satisfactory to his librarian. The terms were settled, and Dibdin bore off the volumes in triumph to Althorp, where they swelled the number of distinct editions of Vergil printed prior to the year 1476 to the number of fifteen.

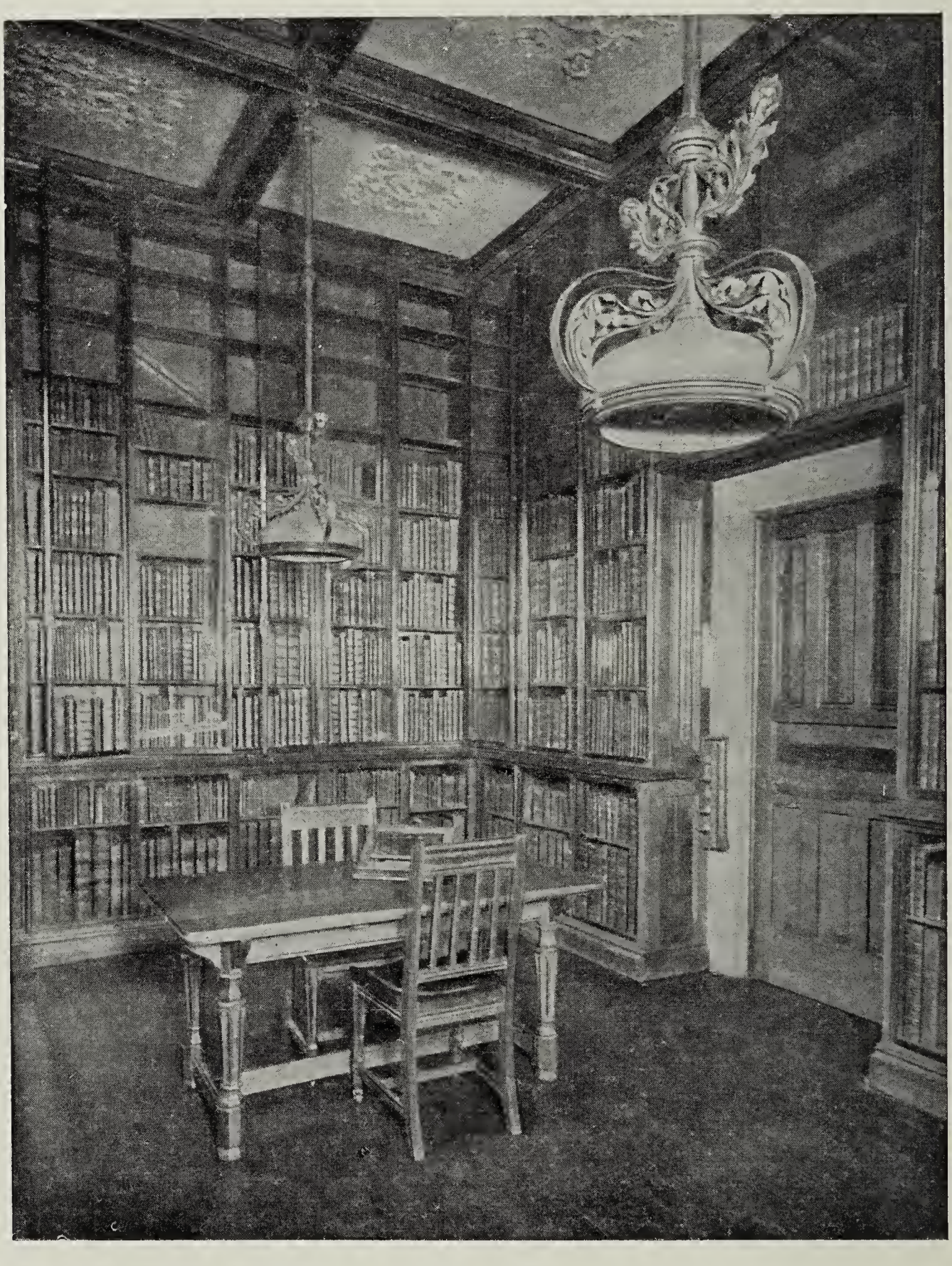
In 1819 Lord Spencer made a bibliographical tour of the Continent, one of the special objects of which was the perfecting of his fine series of the productions of the first Italian press of Sweynheym and Pannartz. He experienced some difficulty in finding the Martial of 1473, but at last succeeded, and so carried his number of works

from that famous press to thirty-two. The most notable event of the tour was the acquisition of the entire library of the Duke of Cassano-Serra, a Neapolitan who had trodden much the path of Reviczky, with special attention to the early productions of the presses of Naples and Sicily. As early as 1807 the owner had printed a catalogue of the fifteenth-century books in this collection. The three books in the collection that had special attractions in Lord Spencer's eyes were an unique edition of Horace, printed by Arnoldus de Bruxella at Naples in 1474, an undated Juvenal, printed by Ulrich Han at Rome before 1470, and an Aldine Petrarch of 1501, on vellum, with the manuscript notes of Cardinal Bembo. Could he have obtained these three volumes, there is reason to believe he would have been willing to forego the rest of the Cassano Library, fine as it was, but the fates decreed otherwise.

So thoroughly did Lord Spencer know his own collection that while he was at Naples he made a list of the principal duplicates which the Cassano acquisition would cause. All these were sold in 1821, to the enrichment of the Grenville, Sussex, Heber, and Bodleian Libraries, as well as of many minor collections.

In the course of his tour Lord Spencer visited the principal libraries, both public and private, that came in his path, and in correspondence with Dibdin he dwelt with particular satisfaction on the choice books he had met with in the collections of Counts Melzi and d'Elci. But he had now little to covet. From the Remondini collection he had obtained some fine Aldines, and he had made many occasional purchases, some of which improved his library without increasing it. To make a fine but imperfect book complete, he would not hesitate to buy two other imperfect copies. And if fortune put it in his power to benefit the collection of a friend, as well as to improve his own, his pleasure was increased. He never cherished the selfish delight of some eminent collectors in putting two identical copies of an extremely rare book on his own shelves, expressly in order that neither of them should fill a gap in the choice library of another collector.

Whilst public libraries are one of the glories of our nation, private libraries are of equal value, provided only that large and liberal minded men preside over their collection, custody, and communication. It has not been sufficiently emphasized, that the libraries of our country owe



7. THE EARLY PRINTED BOOK ROOM

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a vast debt of gratitude to such private collectors as Bodley, Grenville, Douce, Rawlinson, Thomason, the Spencers, and the Lindsays, men who have devoted the energies of mind and body to their hobby, and in good time have made it possible either by bequest or otherwise for the resulting collections to be saved from dispersal by being added to the public or national libraries of the country. It is impossible to estimate the benefit which has been conferred on the human race by the collectors of great libraries. Thanks, therefore, to the scholarly instincts possessed by Count Reviczky and by Earl Spencer, and to the munificence of Mrs. Rylands, Manchester is now in proud possession of a library which in many respects is unrivalled. It is not too much to say that seldom if ever before has there been brought together a collection of books illustrating so completely as this does the origin and development of the art of printing. There are larger collections, it is true, but in point of condition the collection in the John Rylands Library stands out, as we have already remarked. Earl Spencer was not satisfied merely to have copies of the best books, he was intent upon having the finest copies procurable of the best books, and the identity of these books has been preserved by means of a small label bearing the words "e Bibliotheca Spenceriana," which has been inserted on the inner side of the front board of the binding of each volume.

THE EARLY PRINTED BOOK ROOM.

Turning now to the brief survey of the contents of the library one of the most noteworthy of its features is the collection of books printed before the year 1501, numbering upwards of 3000 volumes. These books have been arranged upon the shelves of the room specially constructed for their accommodation, and known as "The Early Printed Book Room," in such a way as to show at a glance the direction which the art of printing took in the course of its progress and development across Europe.

Commencing with the specimens of block-printing, those immediate precursors of the type-printed book, which may still be described in accordance with the old theory, and, until positive evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, as the stepping-stones from the manuscript to that remarkable development which took place in the middle of the fifteenth century with the introduction of the printing press, the first object to claim attention is the famous block-print of "Saint Christopher," bearing

an inscription, and the date 1423. This, the earliest known piece of European printing to which an unquestioned and, until recently, unchallenged date is attached, and of which no other copy is known, is alone sufficient to make the library famous. The print has been coloured by hand, and is pasted on the inside of the right-hand board of the binding of a manuscript entitled "Laus Virginis," written in 1417 in the Carthusian Monastery of Buxheim, near Memmingen, Swabia, where the volume was carefully preserved until towards the end of the eighteenth century. On the left-hand board of the binding is another woodcut of "the Annunciation" similar in style and execution to that of "St. Christopher" but without a date. These religious prints, consisting of outlines of figures of saints, copied no doubt from the illuminated manuscripts, were printed wholly from engraved blocks or slabs of wood, upon which not only the pictorial matter, but any letter-press was carved in relief. The manner of printing was peculiar, since the earliest examples were produced before the printing press was introduced. It may be described as follows: The block was thinly inked over, and a sheet of damped paper was then laid upon it, and carefully rubbed either with the hand or with a dabber.

From the single leaf prints, of which there are, in addition to the St. Christopher, several undated examples, some of which may belong to a slightly earlier period, to the block-books was the next step in the development. These block-books were mostly made up from single leaves, printed only on one side of the paper from engraved slabs or blocks of pear or apple wood, cut on the plank, and then made up into books by being pasted back to back. The reason for printing the sheets only on one side is obvious when the manner of printing is recalled. To have turned the sheet to receive a second print would have resulted in the smearing of the first, by reason of the friction necessary to secure the second impression. Fifteen of these volumes are preserved in the library, of which nine may be assigned conjecturally to the period between 1440 and 1450, whilst the others are of a somewhat later date. There are two editions of the "Apocalypsis S. Joannis," two editions of the "Ars moriendi," two editions of the "Speculum humanæ salvationis," two editions of the "Biblia pauperum," the "Ars memorandi," the "Historia Virginis ex cantico canticorum," "Quindecem signa extrem judicii diem præcedentia," "Die Enndkrist," "Die fünfzehn Zaicher

8. THE "ST. CHRISTOPHER" BLOCK-PRINT, 1423

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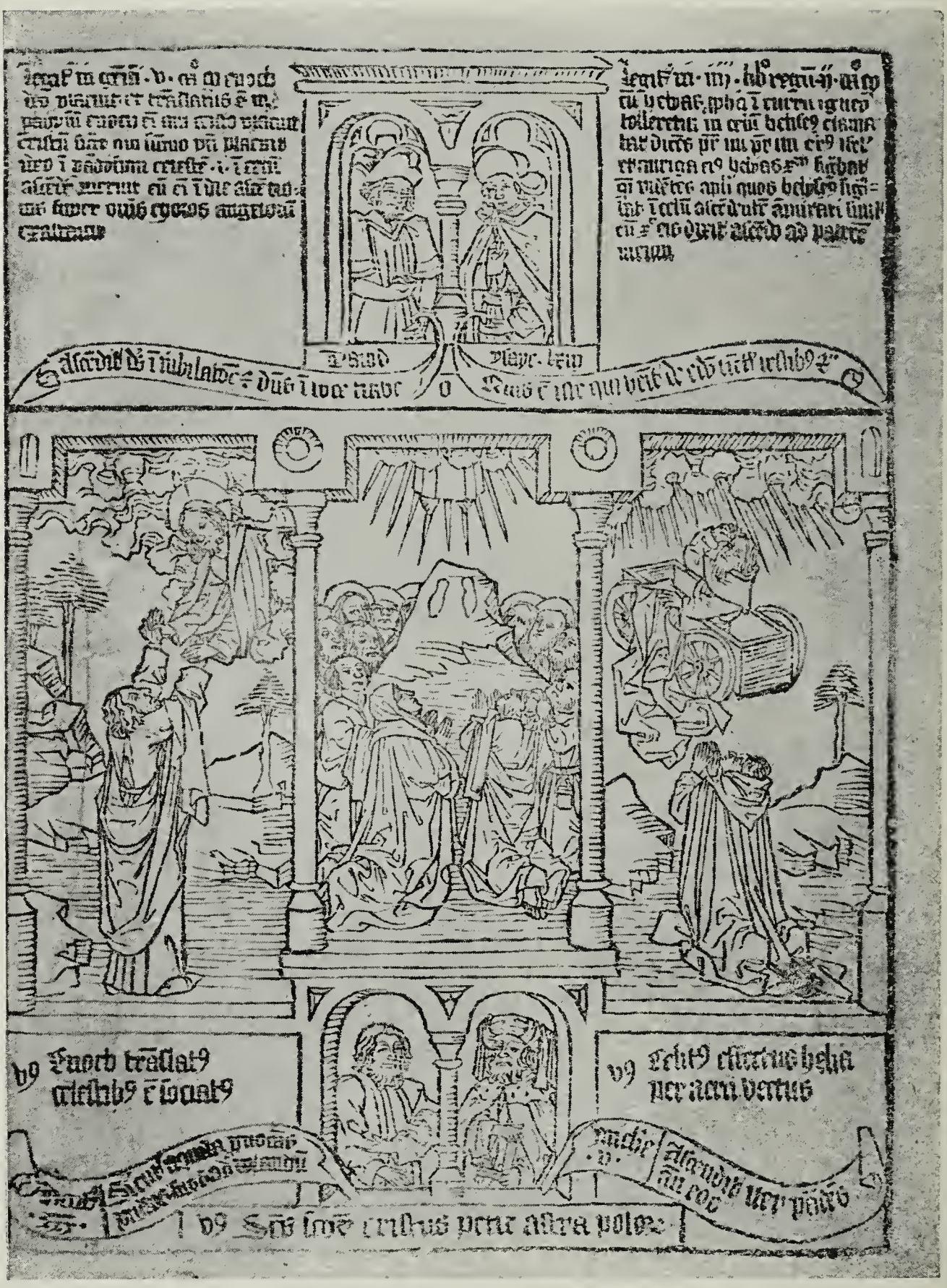

9. A PAGE OF THE "BIBLIA PAUPERUM"
Block-Book. Circa 1450

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kimen vor dem hingsten Tag," the "Mirabilia urbis romæ," and "Die Kunst Ciromantia." The library also possesses one of the original wooden blocks from which the second leaf of an edition of the "Apocalypsis S. Joannis" was printed, about 1450.

Coming to the productions of the press by means of movable types, the arrangement is first by country, then by towns in the order in which they established presses, then by presses or printers in the order of their establishment, and finally a chronological arrangement of the works in the order in which they came from the respective presses, as nearly as can be determined.

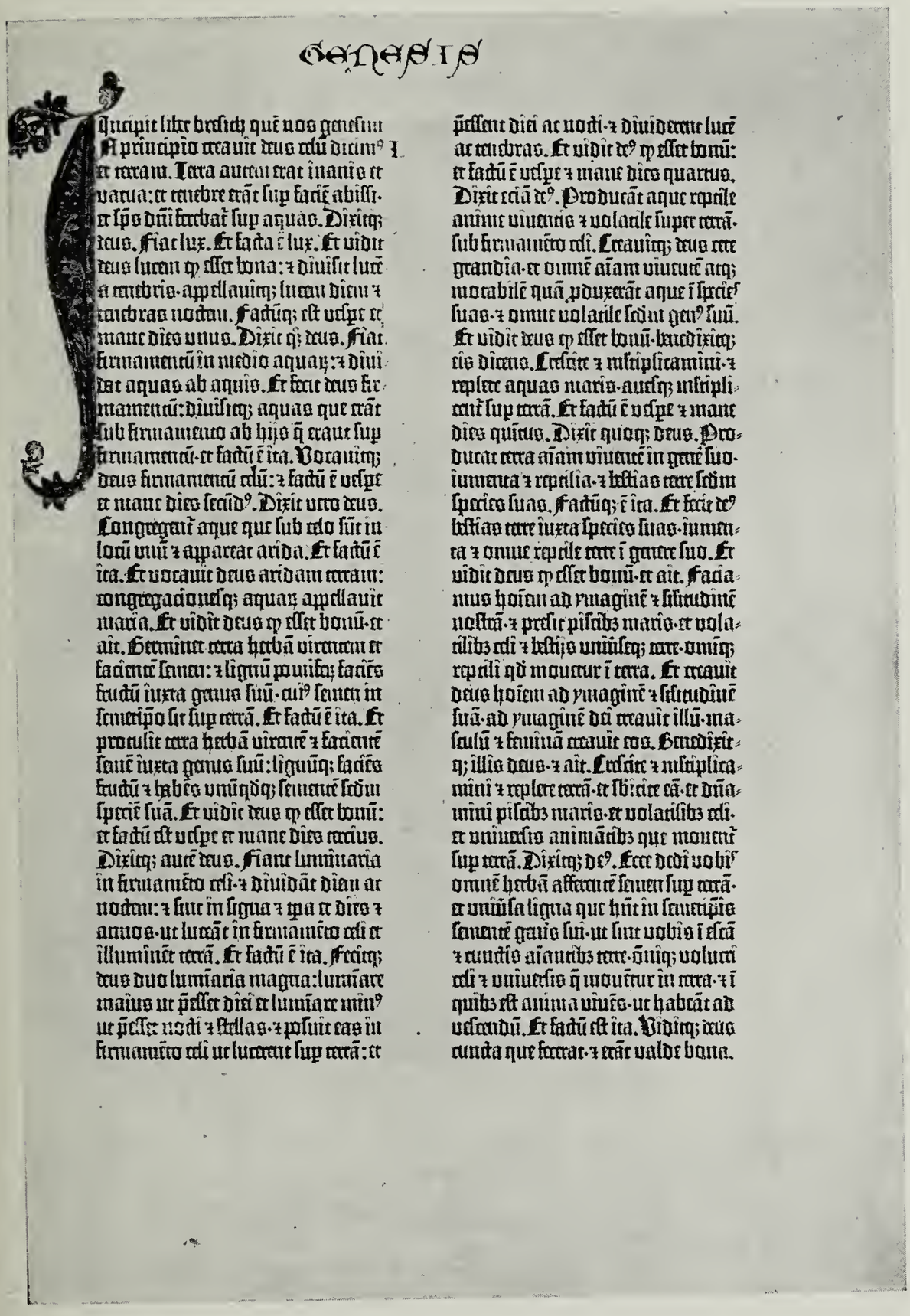
Claims to the honour of having first made use of separate letters for printing in the Western world have been put forward in favour of Germany, France and Holland. It is true that from contemporary documents it appears that experiments of some kind were made at Avignon as early as 1444, and there are references to other experiments at about the same date in Holland, which have been connected with the name of Coster of Haarlem. But the only country which is able to produce undoubted specimens in support of her claim is Germany, although the last word in this controversy has not yet been said.

Commencing then with Germany, and assuming that the first press was set up at Mainz, we have of the earliest type-printed documents to which can be assigned a place or date—the "Letters of Indulgence," granted by Pope Nicolas V. in 1452 through Paulinus Chappe, Proctor-General of the King of Cyprus, and conferring privileges on all Christians contributing to the cost of the war against the Turks. The earliest was printed in 1454, the other before the end of 1455. Then follow the two splendid Latin Bibles, technically known as the "36-line," and the "42-line," from the number of lines of which a column is composed in the respective editions. The former is popularly known as the "Pfister or Bamberg Bible," because the type in which it is printed was afterwards employed by a printer of Bamberg, named Albrecht Pfister, and the latter is commonly referred to as the "Mazarin Bible," from the accident of the copy in the library of Cardinal Mazarin, at Paris, being the first to attract attention. Whether these two Bibles were printed at one and the same press, or at different printing offices, is a subject of controversy. By some authorities it is thought that the first-named was commenced

about 1448, but was not completed until about 1461, whilst the other was commenced in 1450, and must have been completed some time before August, 1456, since a copy in the Bibliothèque Nationale contains a manuscript note of one Cremer, to the effect that it had been rubricated and bound by him in 1456. That Gutenberg was the printer of one of the Bibles, if not of both, is generally conceded, although his name is not found in any piece of printing which has been attributed to him. Unfortunately it is only by the aid of conjecture that we are able to link together the few facts we possess concerning the early presses at Mainz. It seems probable, however, that Gutenberg was ruined at the very moment of success through an action, brought against him by Johann Fust, for the repayment of loans advanced to him for the purpose of carrying out his projects.

The earliest book to contain particulars of the name of its printers, and the date and place of printing was the "Psalmorum Codex" or "Mainz Psalter," of which three issues seem to have been printed in 1457 at Mainz by Johann Fust and Peter Schœffer. Peter Schœffer had been an illuminator, and to his influence has been ascribed the beautiful initials, printed in two colours, with which the book is embellished. Of this majestic folio the library is in proud possession of the only known perfect copy of the first issue, known as the 143 leaved issue. Side by side with it stands a copy of the second Psalter, printed in 1459, also, like the first, on vellum ; and a copy of the third Psalter on paper, printed by Peter Schœffer alone in 1490.

Of these and the other productions of the press or presses at Mainz, with which the names of the three printers, Gutenberg, Fust and Schœffer, are associated, the library possesses no fewer than fifty examples, several of which are the only copies of which there is any record, notably, the German edition of the "Bul zu dutsch . . . der babst Pius II.," printed in 1463 or 1464, which is distinguished as being the first printed book in which a title-page was employed. A most interesting document in the library relating to the sack of Mainz in 1462, and the dispersion of the printers, is a broadside consisting of a protest of Diether von Ysenberg against his deposition by the Pope and Emperor from the see and electorate of Mainz, and the elevation of Adolphus of Nassau, printed in 1462 by Fust and Schœffer. Several other broadsides are known dealing with this episode but of this particular version, containing 106 lines, this is the only copy recorded.



Incipit liber primus quē nos genesim
In principio creauit deus celū dicim⁹ ⁊
et terram. Terra autem erat inanis et
vacua: et tenebre erāt sup faciē abissi.
et spūs dñi ferebat sup aquas. Dixitq;
deus. Fiat lux. Et facta ē lux. Et vidit
deus lucem q̄ esset bona: ⁊ diuisit lucē
a tenebris. appellauitq; lucem diem ⁊
tenebras noctem. Factūq; est vespe et
mane dies unus. Dixit q̄; deus. Fiat
firmamentū in medio aquaꝝ: ⁊ diuidat
aquas ab aquis. Et fecit deus firma-
mentū: diuisitq; aquas que erāt
sub firmamento ab his q̄ erant sup
firmamentū. et factū ē ita. Vocauitq;
deus firmamentū celū: ⁊ factū ē vespe
et mane dies secūd⁹. Dixit vero deus.
Congregentur aque que sub celo sūt in
locū unū ⁊ appareat arida. Et factū ē
ita. Et vocauit deus aridam terram:
congregationesq; aquaꝝ appellauit
maria. Et vidit deus q̄ esset bonū. et
ait. Germinet terra herbā virentem et
faciētē semen: ⁊ lignū pomiferū faciēs
fructū iuxta genus suū. cui⁹ semen in
semetipō sit sup terrā. Et factū ē ita. Et
protulit terra herbā virentē ⁊ faciētē
semē iuxta genus suū: liguq̄; faciēs
fructū ⁊ habēs unūquodq; semen sēdm
speciē suā. Et vidit deus q̄ esset bonū:
et factū est vespe et mane dies tertius.
Dixitq; autē deus. Fiant luminaria
in firmamēto celi ⁊ diuidāt diem ac
noctem: ⁊ sint in signa ⁊ tpa et dies ⁊
annos. ut luceāt in firmamēto celi et
illuminēt terrā. Et factū ē ita. Fecitq;
deus duo luminaria magna: luminare
maius ut p̄esset diei et luminare minꝰ
ut p̄esset nocti ⁊ stellas. ⁊ posuit eas in
firmamēto celi ut lucerent sup terrā: et
p̄esſent diei ac nocti. ⁊ diuiderent lucē
ac tenebras. Et vidit deꝰ q̄ esset bonū:
et factū ē vespe ⁊ mane dies quartus.
Dixit etiā deꝰ. Producāt aque reptile
anime viuentis ⁊ volatile super terrā
sub firmamēto celi. Creauitq; deus cete
grandia. et omnē aīam viuentē atq;
motabilē quā p̄duxerāt aque i speciē
suas. ⁊ omne volatile sedm genꝰ suū.
Et vidit deus q̄ esset bonū. benedixitq;
eis dicens. Crescite ⁊ multiplicamini. ⁊
replete aquas maris. auesq; multipli-
centur sup terrā. Et factū ē vespe ⁊ mane
dies quintus. Dixit quoq; deus. Pro-
ducat terra aīam viuentē in genē suo.
iumenta ⁊ reptilia. ⁊ bestias terre sedm
species suas. Factūq; ē ita. Et fecit deꝰ
bestias terre iuxta species suas. iumen-
ta ⁊ omne reptile terre i genere suo. Et
vidit deus q̄ esset bonū. et ait. Faci-
mus hoīem ad ymaginē ⁊ similitudinē
nostrā. ⁊ p̄sit piscibꝰ maris. et vola-
tilibꝰ celi ⁊ bestijs uniūsq; terre. omiq;
reptili q̄ mouetur i terra. Et creauit
deus hoīem ad ymaginē ⁊ similitudinē
suā. ad ymaginē dei creauit illū. ma-
sculū ⁊ femiā creauit eos. Benedixit-
q; illis deus. ⁊ ait. Crescite ⁊ multiplica-
mini ⁊ replete terrā. et subiicite eā. et dñā-
mini piscibꝰ maris. et volatilibꝰ celi.
et uniuersis animātibꝰ que mouent
sup terrā. Dixitq; deꝰ. Ecce dedi vobis
omnē herbā afferentē semen sup terrā.
et uniuersa ligna que hūt in semetipis
semen genis sui. ut sint vobis i escā
⁊ cunctis aīantibꝰ terre. omiq; volucri
celi ⁊ uniuersis q̄ mouentur in terra. ⁊ i
quibꝰ est anima viuēs. ut habeāt ad
vescendū. Et factū est ita. Vidit q̄; deus
cuncta que fecerat. ⁊ erāt valde bona.

10. A PAGE OF THE FIRST PRINTED BIBLE

[Mainz, Gutenberg, 1456 ?]

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Dauid · In pace factus ē
loc⁹ ei⁹ et habitacio eius
in syon · Jacob
Et requiescens
accubabit ut le
o ⁊ quasi leena

Salomō · Ecce dormio et
cor meum vigilat ·
ysaias · Et erit se
pulcrum eius
gloriosus ·

Myrra conditur · et ab his xp̄us sepelitur ·

Aegit ꝯ gen̄ qñ fres ioseph eū vēdere vellēt ismahelitis
reuētes eū tunica sua mittētes in cisternā vetera q̄ erat
i solitudīe iuxta dothayn · Joseph xp̄m sīgt qñ missus
fuit i sepulcrū sed tamē de sepulcro mirabilit vin⁹ ve-
rus deus et homo resurrexit ·

Aegit i lib ionc q; ionas nauis naulo discēdisset ut fu-
geret tharsis fca ē tēpestas maxīa i mari et cū miserūt
sortes recidit sors sup ionā q; miserūt i mare et gluti-
uit eū belua marīa i cui⁹ vētre fuit tribꝫ diebꝫ ⁊ noctibꝫ ·
Jonas xp̄m sīgt q̄ fuit in corde tre tribꝫ diebꝫ ⁊ noctibꝫ ·

11. A PAGE OF THE "BIBLIA PAUPERUM"
[Printed by Albrecht Pfister of Bamberg, 1461 ?]

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From Mainz the art of printing migrated to Strassburg, a city where Gutenberg appears to have made experiments as early as 1439, and where, in, or before, 1460, Johann Mentelin had printed another great Latin Bible, a copy of which is to be found in the library. It also found its way to Bamberg, to Cologne, where Ulrich Zel, the disciple of Schœffer, was the first printer, to Augsburg, to Nuremberg, to Speier, to Ulm, and to at least fifty-one other towns in Germany, where printing was carried on during the latter part of the fifteenth century by not fewer than 219 printers. By means of the examples of the various presses to be found on the shelves of the room, it is possible to follow the art step by step in its progress through Germany. Of the works printed by Albrecht Pfister at Bamberg, the printer who employed the same type as that found in the thirty-six line Bible, only four books and part of a fifth are known to exist in this country, all of which are in Manchester.

Though the printing press was born in Germany, the full flower of its development was first reached in Italy, at that time the home of scholarship. The first printers of Italy were two migrant Germans, probably from Mainz : Conrad Sweynheym and Arnold Pannartz, who set up their press in the Benedictine Monastery of Saint Scholastica, at Subiaco, some twenty miles from Rome, where many of the inmates were Germans. Here, between 1465 and 1467, they printed four books : " Donatus," " De oratore " of Cicero, " De divinis institutionibus " of Lactantius, and " De civitate Dei " of St. Augustine. In the latter year they removed from Subiaco into Rome, where a compatriot, Ulrich Han, was also just beginning to work. Han's first production was " Meditationes seu contemplationes," of Turrecremata, the first illustrated book to be printed in Italy, of which the only known perfect copy is in this room. Of the works printed by Sweynheym and Pannartz at Subiaco and Rome, and enumerated in their famous catalogue of 1472, the library contains copies of every one save the " Donatus," of which not even a fragment is known to have survived of the 300 copies there recorded to have been printed, including a copy of the catalogue which is prefixed to the last volume of the " Postilla " of Nicholas de Lyra.

The progress of the art in Italy between 1465 and 1500 was quite phenomenal. In 1469 John of Speier began to work in Venice, and of the only three works known to have issued from his press

copies are to be found in the library, the first, "Epistolæ ad familiares" of Cicero, being on vellum. He was followed by Wendelin of Speier, and in 1470 by a Frenchman named Nicolas Jenson, whose beautiful roman type has never been surpassed and seldom equalled. Within the next five years printing was introduced into most of the chief towns of Italy, and before the end of the century presses had been established in seventy-three towns. In Venice alone not fewer than 151 presses had been started, and something approaching two millions of volumes had been printed before the close of the fifteenth century, an output which exceeded the total of all the other Italian towns put together. These presses are well represented in the John Rylands collection, and it is possible in most cases to exhibit the first work produced by the respective printers. Of one specimen of early Venetian printing mention may be made; it is the first edition of "Il Decamerone" of Boccaccio, printed by Valdarfer in 1471. It is the only perfect copy extant, the rarity of which is attributed to its having formed part of an edition committed to the flames by the Florentines through the teaching of Savonarola. Of the early productions of the Neapolitan presses the library possesses many examples, several of which are the only recorded copies. The printers of Basle are well represented, as also are the printers of Paris, Lyons, and the other centres of printing in France and Holland and Belgium. The library possesses a very fine copy of the "Epistolæ" of Gasparinus Barzizius, the first book printed in France by the three Germans: Gering, Krantz and Friburger, who, in 1470, at the invitation of two of the professors of the Sorbonne, in Paris: Fichet and De la Pierre, set up a press within the precincts of the college.

Turning to the shelves devoted to England, we find that of genuine Caxtons the library possesses sixty examples, of which thirty-six are perfect. Of four of these we have the only known copies, which are: "The Four Sons of Aymon," "Blanchardyn and Eglantyne," the broadside, "Death Bed Prayers," and the "Indulgence" of 1489. It was in assisting Colard Mansion to print "The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye," which Caxton had himself translated from the French of Raoul le Fèvre, that he learned the art of printing, as he tells us in his beautifully quaint epilogue to that work, which reads:

"Thus ende I this booke whyche I have translated after myn Auctor as nyghe as god hath gyuen me connyng to whom be

O Glorious Jhesu. O meke ſt Jhesu. O moost ſwetest Jhesu/I praye the/that I may haue trewe con ſ feſſion/ contricion/ and ſatiſfaction or I dye/And that I maye ſee and reygne thy holy body gody & may Sauyour of alle mankynde Cryſt Jhesu Without ſynne/ And that thou wylt my lordy gody forgeue me alle my ſynnes for thy glorious wounds & paſſion/ And that I may ende my lyf in the trewe feythe of alle holy chirche/ And in parfyght loue and chrytie with my euen cryſten as thy creature/ And I commende my ſoule in to thy holy handes thurgh the glorious helpe of thy bleſſyd moder of mercy oure lady ſaynt Mary / and alle the holy companye of heuen Amen

¶ The holy body of Cryſt Jhesu be my ſaluacion of body and ſoule Amen/The Glorious blood of Cryſt Jhesu bringe my ſoule and body in to the euerlaſtynge blyſſe Amen / I crye gody mercy / I crye gody mercy/I crye god mercy/Welcome my maker/welcome my redemer/Welcome my ſauyour/I crye the mercy with hertē contrytē of my grete Vnkyndeneſſe that I haue ſhewd vnto the/

O The moost ſwetest ſpouſe of my ſoule Cryſte Jhesu deſyryng hertely euermore for to be with the in myn de and wyll/ And to lete none erthely thynge be ſoo nyghe myn hert as thow Cryſte Jhesu/And that I drede not for to dye for to goo to the Cryſt Jhesu/And that I may euermore ſaye vn to the with a gladde chere/ My lordy My gody my ſouereyne ſauy our Cryſt Jhesu / I beſeche the hertely/ take me ſynner vnto thy grete mercy and grace/ For I loue the with al my hert/with all my mynde/with alle my myght/ And no thynge ſoo mocke in erth nor aboue erthe/as I doo the my ſwete lordy Cryſt Jhesu / And for that I haue not louedy the/ and worſhippedy the/aboue al thyng as my lordy/My gody/and my ſaueour/Cryſt Jhesu/I beſeche the with mekeneſſe and hertē contrytē / of mercy and of forgeueneſſe of my grete vnkyndeneſſe/for the grete loue that thou ſhewdeſt for me and al mankynde/what tyme thou offredeſt thy glorious body gody and may vnto the Croſſe/ther to be crucefyedy and woūded And vnto thy glorious hertē a ſharp ſpere/ther rennyng out plen tyuouſly blody and water for the redempcion and ſaluacion of me and al mankynde / And thus hauyng remembraunce ſtedfaſtly in my hertē of the my ſauyour Cryſte Jhesu / I doubte not / but thou wylt be ful nyghe me/and comforte me bothe bodyly and goſtely with thy glorious preſence/And at the laſt bringe me vnto thy euerlaſtynge blyſſe/the which ſhalle neuer haue ende/Amen/

12. "DEATH-BED PRAYERS"

Broadside. Printed by William Caxton, about 1484

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ſe Vnderſtode holy cham his ſone had ſcor
ned hym/ ſe curſid hym / And alſo his
ſone Canaan / And bleſſyd Sem and
Japhet by cauſe they couerd hym/ Alle
the dayes of Noe were ix C.l.yere And
thenne deyed / And after his deth his
ſones dyuyded alle the world bytwene hem
Sem had all aſye / Cham affryke/ And
Japhet all Europe /Thus was it depar
tyd / Aſye is the beſt part / and is as
mocke as the other two and that is in the
eeſt/ Affryke is the ſouth part and ther
in is cartage and many ryche contre/ther
in ben bleu and blacke men / Cham had
that to his parte Affrica / The thyrde
parte is Europe whiche is in the north &
weſte / therin is grece / Rome and Ger
manye / In Europe regneth nouy moſte
the cryſten lawe and faith wherin is ma
ny ryche Royame And ſo was the world
departed to the iij ſones of Noe /

Thus endeth the lyf of Noe

Here folweth the lyf of abra
ham /

The clerk called qui
quageſme is rede in the
chirche thyſtorye of the holy
patriarke Abraham whiche
was ſone of Thare / This
Thare was the tenthe fro Noe in the ge
neracion of ſem / Japhet had vij ſones /
& cham four ſones/ Out of the generacio
of cham Nembroth cam whiche was a
wicked man and curſid in his werkis
And began to make the tour of babylone
whiche was grete and hye / And at the
makyng of this tour god chaunged the
langages / in ſuche wyſe that noman
vnderſtode other / For tofore the byldyng
of that tour was but one maner ſpeche
in all the world / And ther were made
lxxij ſpeches / The tour was grete / it
was x myle aboute and v M lxxxiiij /
ſteppes of height / This Nembroth was
the firſt man that founde malmetrye &
ydolatrye/ whiche endured long and yet
doth / Thenne I wyne agayne to Thare
whiche had thre ſones / whiche was
abram / Nacor and Aram/Of nacor cam
Vs / Hus / and Buel / Of Vs cam Job
of Hus cam Balam / And of Buel rebe
ca and Laban / Of aram cam both and ij
doughtres melcha and ſara/ Nouy I ſhal
ſpeke of abram of whom our bleſſid la
dy come / ſe wedded Sara doughter of
his broder aram / Abram was euer faith
ful and trelwe / ſe was lxxv yere old/
whan his fader deyde/ For whom he mor
ned tyl our lord comforted hym/ whiche
ſaid to abram / Abram make the redy &
goo out of thy lande and kyntrede and
alſo fro the houſe of thy fader / and co
me in to the lande that I ſhal ſhewe to
the / I ſhal make the growe in to mocke
peple / I ſhal bleſſe the and ſhal magne
fye thy name and thou ſhalt be bleſſyd
and I ſhall bleſſe them that bleſſe the &
curſe them that curſe the / And in the
ſhal be bleſſyd Alle the kyntredes of the
erthe / Abram was lxxv yere olde whan
ſe departed from the lond of Aram /
And ſe toke with hym Sara his wyf
and loth the ſone of his broder and their
meyne and his catell and ſubſtaunce and
Cam in to the londe of Canaan and cam
in to the vale of Sichem / in whiche were
alle peple whiche were the peple of Ca
naan / And our lord ſaide to Abram
I ſhal gyue to the this lande and to thyn
eyres / Thenne Abram did vpſe an aul
ter ou whiche ſe dide ſacrifice / And
bleſſid and thankyd our lord/ Abram
beheld all the londe tolward the ſouth /
And ſalde the realte therof and fonde
hit lyke as our lord hold hym / But ſe

13. A PAGE OF "THE GOLDEN LEGEND"

Printed by William Caxton [1483 ?]

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> gyuen the laude and preysyng. And for as moche as in the wrytyng of the same my penne is worn myn hande wery and not stedfast myn eyen dimed with ouermoche lokyng on the whit paper, and my corage not so prone and redy to laboure as hit hath ben, and that age crepeth on me dayly and febleth all the bodye, and also because I haue promysid to dyuerce gentilmen and to my frendes to adresse to hem as hastely as I myght this sayd book. Therefore I haue practysed and lerned at my grete charge and dispense to ordeyne this said book in prynte after the maner and forme as ye may here see, and is not wreton with penne and ynke as other bokes ben, to thende that euery man may haue them attones, ffor all the bookes of this storye named the recule of the historyes of troyes thus enpryntid as ye here see were begonne in oon day and also fynyshid in oon day. . . ."

The volume appeared in or about the year 1475, and was followed by "The Game and Playe of the Chesse," which for many years was regarded as the earlier of the two, and also as the first book printed at Westminster. In 1476 Caxton returned to England from the Low Countries, probably in consequence of the disastrous defeat of Charles the Bold by the Swiss in July of that year. He set up his press at Westminster within the precincts of the Abbey, and in the autumn of 1477 he published "The Dictes or Sayengis of the Philosophres," the first book with a date to be printed in England. From that year until the time of his death, in 1491, his press was never idle. Including the broadsides and new editions of certain works, his publications at Bruges and in England number about a hundred, in the printing of which eight different founts of type were employed. In addition to the works already enumerated, the library possesses of the rarer of the Caxtons one of the two only known copies of each of: "Malory's Morte d'Arthur," the "Advertisement of pyes of two and three comemoracios of salisburi use," "The Curial of Alayn Charetier," and the "Propositio Johannis Russell," with others less rare, to the number, as already stated, of sixty.

Of the works of the later printers of London: Wynkyn de Worde, Lettou, Machlinia, Pynson, Julian Notary, and the Schoolmaster printer of St. Albans, the library possesses many examples, a fair proportion of which are believed to be of great rarity. Of Wynkyn de Worde, Caxton's immediate successor, the most notable works are:

a copy of the finest production of his press, "De proprietatibus rerum" of Bartholomæus, the first book printed on English-made paper, manufactured at Hereford by John Tate; and a perfect impression on vellum of "Treatyses perteyning to Hawkynge, Huntynge, and Coatarmours and Fysshynge," 1496. Of Pynson, who speaks of Caxton as "my worshipful master," there is a copy of his first production "Dives and Pauper," 1493, and the "Assertio septem sacramentorum adversus Martin Lutherum," of Henry VIII, on vellum. Of the early Oxford books there are nine, including the "Exposicio Sancti Ieronimi in simbolo apostolorum" of Rufinus, with the date M.CCCC.LXVIII., a misprint for 1478, which, in consequence, has been put forward from time to time as the first book printed in England.

These are a few of the monuments of early printing which, to the number of 3000, three-fourths of which were printed before 1480, are to be found upon the shelves of the Early Printed Book Room, the majority of them remarkable for their excellent state of preservation, and a considerable proportion of them printed on vellum.

ALDINE PRESS.

Not less remarkable than the "Incunabula" is the collection of books printed at the famous Venetian press, founded by the scholar-printer Aldus, in or about the year 1494. The collection is considered to be the largest ever brought together, numbering as it does upwards of 800 volumes, many of them printed on vellum. These have been arranged, like the "Incunabula," in a room specially constructed for their accommodation. It is fitting that Aldus Manutius, or, as he afterwards styled himself, "Aldus Pius Manutius Romanus," should be thus honoured, for few men in his own, or indeed in any, age have done more for the spread of knowledge than this scholar-printer of Venice. His earliest aim seems to have been to rescue the masterpieces of Greek literature from the destruction ever impending over a few scattered manuscripts, but he did not by any means confine his attention to the Greek classics, though the achievements of his Latin press are not so distinguished as those of his Greek press. The masterpieces of Latinity had, for the most part, been exhausted by his predecessors, and it was natural that some scholar and printer should turn his attention to the wide field offered by the Greek classics. As yet no one had seriously under-

¶ The first chapitre of this present boke conteyneth how Blanchardyn departed out of the court of his fader kynge of fryse/Capitulo. primo.

That tyme whan the right happy. Wele of peas/florysshid for the most parte in all cristē Realmes/And that mocke peple dyde mocke peyne to gadre and multyplye vertues/ Regned in fryse a kynge of right renewmed and happy fame/loued/doubted and wel obeyed of his subgetis/Right habundaunt of the goodes of fortune/But priuated and voyde he was of the right desyred felicite in mariage/That is to wyte of lignage or yssue of his bodye/ Wherof he and the quene his wyffe were sore displesed/I leue to telle the lewaylyngis and lamentacioūs that the goode lady the quene made full often by her self al alone in solytary places of her paleys for this infortune. ¶ But she knowyng the vertuouse effecte of deuote and holy oryson/ exercysed with al her strengthe her right sorowful greuous herte to this glorioūse occupacion/ And after this fayre passetyme/by verraye permyssion deuyne. conceyued a right faire sone. whiche was named Blanchardyn/ Now it is soo that atte his byrthe and comyng in to this world sourded and rose vp one not acustomed Joye and gladnesse of the kynge and of the quene. of the princes and lordes and of all the comyn people of the lande / that Judged hem self right happy of a successoure legytyme/yf vnto you I wold recoūte and telle the Joye and the myrthe that atte that daye was made/I myght ouermocke lengthe oure matere / Blanchardyn the chylde was taken in to the handes of a right noble lady of the lande for to norysshe and bryngē vp

14. A PAGE OF "THE HISTORY OF BLANCHARDIN AND EGLANTINE"
Printed by William Caxton [1489 ?]

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Thow after that the olde Aymon hadde dyscom-
fyted his chyldren/ They wente and dwelled in the ende
of the foreste of Ardeyne soo longe that they were alle
countrefayte blacke and wrugle as bestes. for the grete hon-
gre that they had endured. After they wente to Ardeyne to
see their moder that feested and cherred theym gretly/and gaaf
to theym soo grete goode. that they myghte well entertayne
theymselfe and their astate therupon ayenst Charlemayn/
And how Mabrgys their cosin arryued whan they wolde
departe. whiche wente wyth theym in to the wyame of Gas
coyn wyth fyue hūdred knyghtes/And of the sorowe that
their lady moder made atte their departynge:

Capytulum iiij

In this party the tale sayth/that after Reynaude
had slayn Esmenfray & gyuen his horse to his bro-
der Alarde. they passed ouer the ryuer & wente in to
the forest of Ardeyn sore dere in it. by cause they wolde not
be aperceyued / And whan they had ben there a lityll while
they began to kepe the wayes/ and all they that cam foreby
theym & that bare ony vytaylles they were dystressed by the
ym. and therof they lyued/for they durst not goo to no tow-
nes nor to no castelles for to bye ony vitayles. and therfore
they suffred grete nede & grete disease. for thei hadde nother
mete nor drinke/but water. For the most parte they ete fles
she without ony brede / And knowe that for cause of this
grete suffraūse that they endured thus. and also of the grete
colde that they had for by cause of the snowes that were the
re. their folke began to deye/ And abode nomoo lyue but
Reynalde and his thre brethern. And this was by
cause of the grete streyngthe that was in their bodyes /
For noo trauayle myghte not hynder theym

15. A PAGE OF "THE FOUR SONS OF AYMON"
Printed by William Caxton [1489 ?]

[To face pa 7

taken the task. In six cities only had Greek books been issued: at Brescia in 1474, at Vicenza in 1475 or 1476, at Milan in 1476, at Parma in 1481, at Venice in 1484 and 1486, and at Florence in 1488. Only one great Greek classic, "Homer," had been issued from the press when Aldus began to print. There was, therefore, an abundant field for Aldus to occupy, and to prove how well he occupied it it is only necessary to say that when he ceased his work Aristotle, Plato, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Euripides, Sophocles, Homer, Demosthenes, Æsop, Plutarch and Pindar had been given to the world, most of them for the first time in printed form. But to carry out his scheme he required ready access to manuscripts, and this, in all probability, was the consideration that induced him to settle at Venice. Venice, free, enlightened, already the great centre of printing, the repository of unpublished manuscripts, and the home of the refugee Greek scholars who would be capable of assisting Aldus in his enterprise, would naturally appear to him the place most suitable for the establishment of his press, and so from Venice proceeded that stream of Aldine editions which have always been prized by book-lovers.

The first productions of Aldus were the "Erotemata" of Laskaris, the "Galeomyomachia," and "Musæi opusculum de Herone et Leandro," all of which appeared in 1495. In the same year he issued the first volume of the folio edition of Aristotle, the work with which he inaugurated his great series of the Greek classics. In 1502 the "Tragœdiæ" of Sophocles appeared, followed in 1518 by the first printed Greek Bible, of which Aldus was himself the projector and chief editor, though he did not live to see it completed, and in 1525. by the "editio princeps" of Galen.

The year 1501 marks a real innovation in the art of typography which Aldus effected. The famous *Italic* type, which he first employed in the Vergil of 1501, is said to be a close copy of the handwriting of Petrarch. It was cut for the printer by Francesco Raibolini, and it is so fine and close as to be ill-suited to the large page of the folio or quarto. Accordingly, Aldus began to make up his sheets into a size that could easily be held in the hand and readily carried in the pocket. The closeness of this new type enabled him to compress into the small dainty format, by which the press of Aldus is best remembered, as much matter as the purchaser could heretofore buy in a large folio.

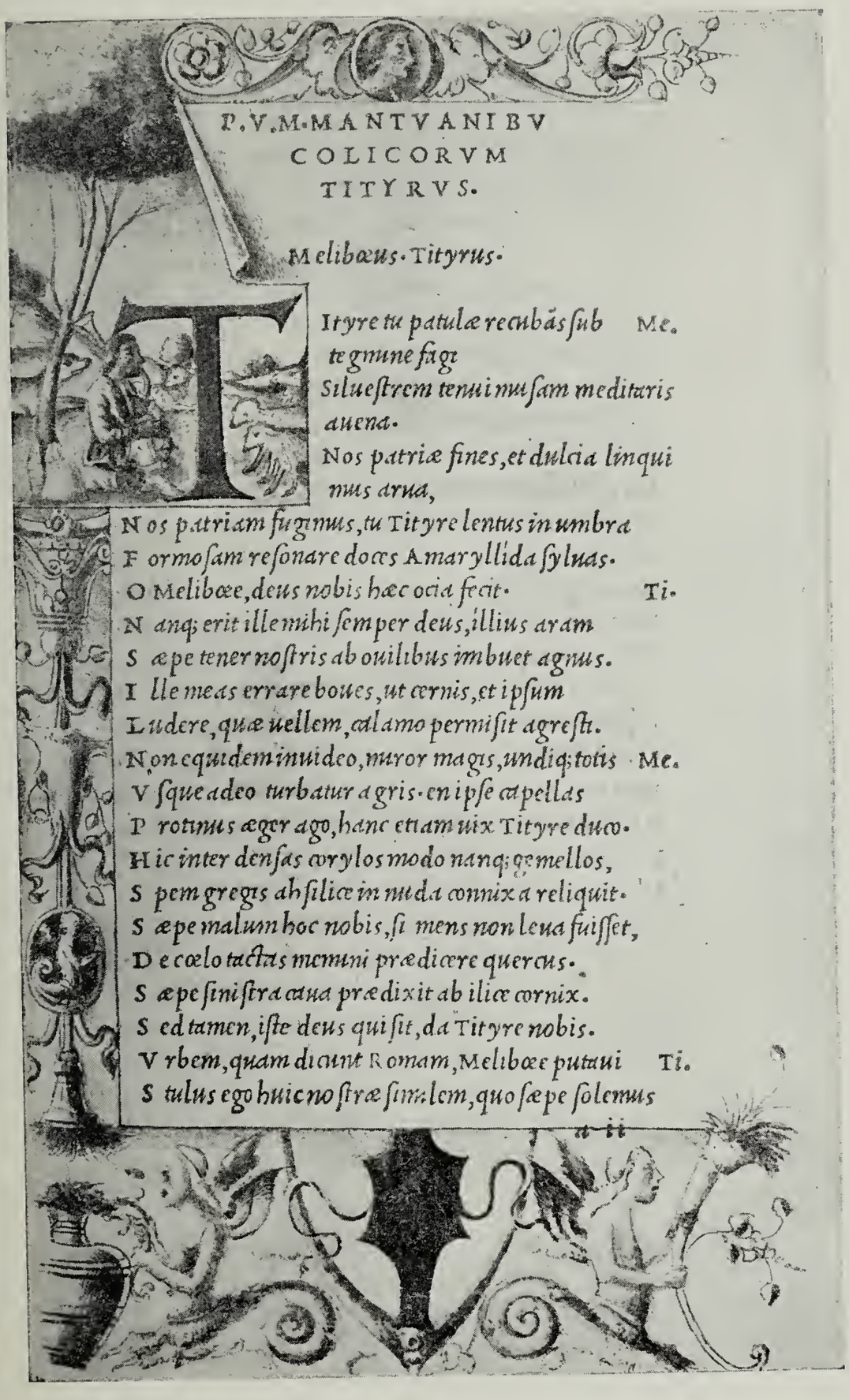
The public welcomed the innovation, which not only meant reduction in size, but considerable reduction in price. The result was a wide diffusion of books and the popularization of knowledge at which Aldus aimed. The Vergil of 1501 was followed in the same year by Horace and Petrarch. It is perhaps of interest to remark that the three earliest books to be printed in the type said to have been copied from the handwriting of Petrarch were the two favourite authors of Petrarch, Vergil and Horace, and his own sonnets. In 1499 Aldus published the most famous of Venetian illustrated books, the "Hypnerotomachia Poliphili," the wood engravings of which are supposed to have been designed by Giovanni Bellini.

After the death of Aldus, which occurred in 1516, the business of the press was carried on by his father-in-law, Andrea Torresano of Asola, and his two sons, by Paolo Manuzio, the son of Aldus, whose enthusiam for Latin classics equalled that of his father for Greek, and by Aldus Junior, the son of Paolo and the grandson of Aldus. In this way the printing establishment founded by Aldus continued in active operation until 1597, a period of 102 years.

In addition to the collection of genuine Aldines which the library possesses, many of which are printed on vellum, there are a considerable number of counterfeit Aldines. The fame of the Aldine italic must have spread over Europe with extraordinary rapidity, for in the same year that Aldus issued his Vergil (1501) a forgery of it was published in Lyons. Aldus complained bitterly of the constant forgeries to which his works were subjected, and by means of public advertisement warned his customers how they might distinguish the forgeries from the genuine Venetian editions. Upwards of 100 of these forgeries are shelved by the side of the genuine copies.

THE BIBLE ROOM.

Equally noteworthy are the Bibles that have been brought together in the Bible Room, comprising, as they do, copies of all the earliest and most famous texts and versions, together with the later revisions and translations, from the Mainz edition of the Latin Vulgate of [1456 ?] to the Doves Press edition of the Authorized Version, which was completed in 1905, and the "Century Bible." Indeed, the Bible collection may be looked upon as the complement of the other collections, since, between the printing of the first and the last editions, an interval of nearly five centuries, it shows the progress



P.V.M.MANTVANI BV
COLICORVM
TITYRVS.

Melibœus. Tityrus.

TItyre tu patulæ recubãs ſub te gmine fagi — Me.
Silueſtrem tenui muſam meditaris auena.
Nos patriæ fines, et dulcia linqui mus arua,
Nos patriam fugimus, tu Tityre lentus in umbra
Formoſam reſonare doces Amaryllida ſylnas.
O Melibœe, deus nobis hæc ocia fecit. — Ti.
Nanq; erit ille mihi ſemper deus, illius aram
Sæpe tener noſtris ab ouilibus imbuet agnus.
Ille meas errare boues, ut cernis, et ipſum
Ludere, quæ uellem, calamo permiſit agreſti.
Non equidem inuideo, miror magis, undiq; totis — Me.
Vſque adeo turbatur agris. en ipſe capellas
Protinus æger ago, hanc etiam uix Tityre duco.
Hic inter denſas corylos modo nanq; gemellos,
Spem gregis ah ſilicæ in nuda connixa reliquit.
Sæpe malum hoc nobis, ſi mens non leua fuiſſet,
De cœlo tactas memini prædicere quercus.
Sæpe ſiniſtra caua prædixit ab ilice cornix.
Sed tamen, iſte deus qui ſit, da Tityre nobis.
Vrbem, quam dicunt Romam, Melibœe putaui — Ti.
Stulus ego huic noſtræ ſimilem, quo ſæpe ſolemus

16. A PAGE OF THE "ALDINE VERGIL," 1501

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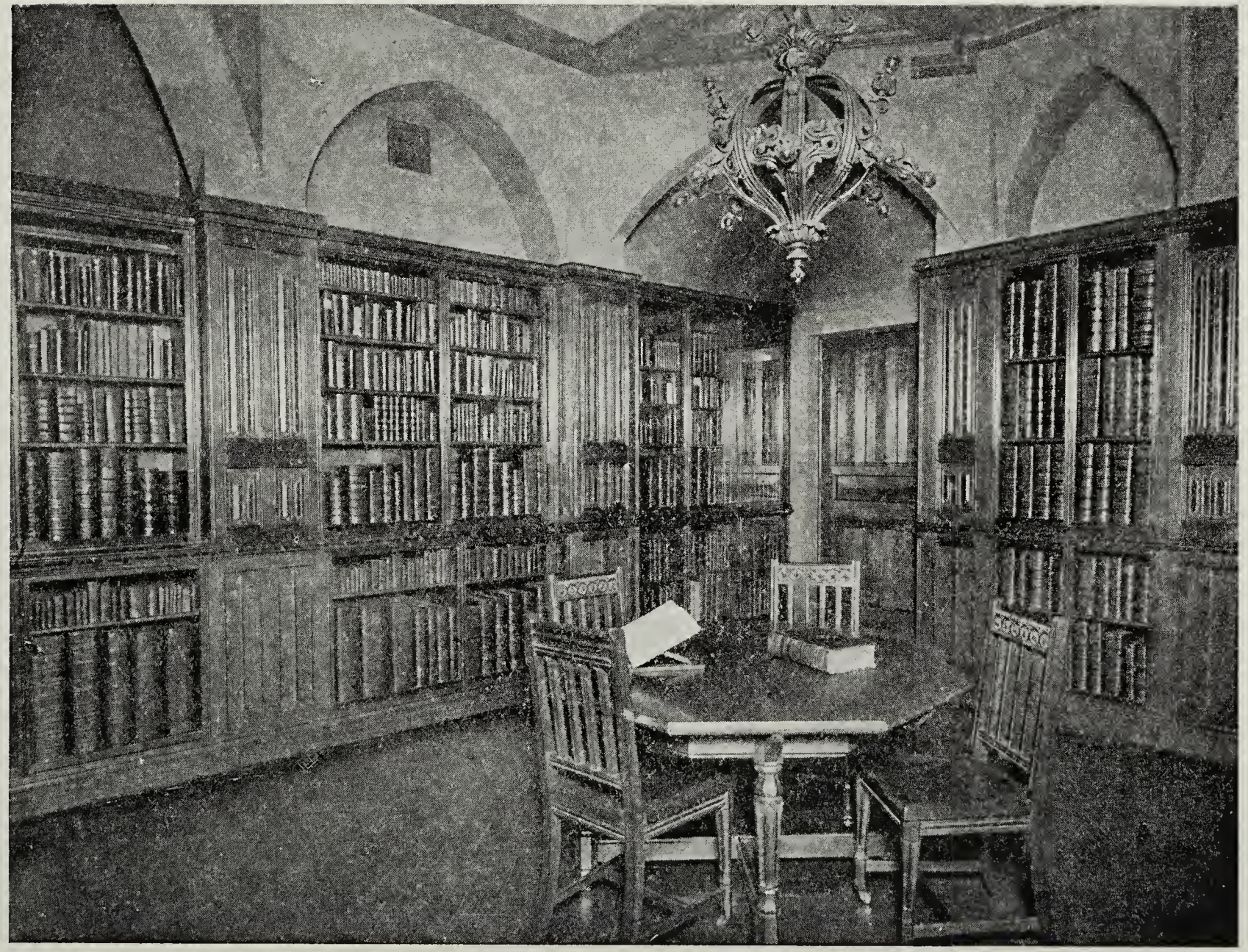

17. THE BIBLE ROOM

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and comparative development of the art of printing in a manner that no other single book can. As the art of printing made its way across Europe, the Bible was generally the first, or one of the first, books to be printed by many of the early printers. Four editions of the Bible in Latin and two great Latin Psalters had appeared in type before a single volume of the classics had been dealt with in a similar way. The earliest printed Bibles were of the Latin Vulgate, and of this version alone upwards of one hundred editions had appeared before the close of the fifteenth century. The most important of these editions, to the number of sixty-four, thirty-two of which have been added to the collection during the period under review, are to be found in the Bible Room. There are the two first printed Mainz editions, with which the name of Gutenberg is associated ; the first Strassburg edition, printed by Mentelin between 1459 and 1460 ; the first dated Bible, printed by Schœffer at Mainz in 1462, and on vellum ; the three editions printed by Eggesteyn at Strassburg in 1466 ; the Bible printed by the "R" printer, now generally identified with Adolf Rusch, at Strassburg, in 1467 ; the first Bible printed at Rome by Sweynheym and Pannartz in 1471 ; the first quarto edition printed by John Peter de Ferratis at Piacenza in 1475 ; the first edition printed in Paris, by Gering, Krantz, and Friburger, in 1476 ; three editions printed in 1476 by Moravus of Naples, Jenson of Venice, and Hailbrun of Venice, respectively, all of which are on vellum ; the first octavo edition printed by Froben of Basle in 1491 ; together with the most important of the editions of the sixteenth and later centuries.

The collection also includes the four great Polyglots printed at Alcala (Complutum), Antwerp, Paris, and London respectively. The "Antwerp Polyglot" is De Thou's large-paper copy, bearing on its binding the arms of that discriminating collector ; whilst the "London Polyglot," also a large-paper copy, one of twelve struck off in this format, bears on its binding the arms of Nicholas Lambert de Thorigny. The Greek texts from the Aldine "editio princeps" of the Septuagint of 1518, the six editions of the Erasmian Testament of 1516-42, with the facsimiles of the principal codices, and all the important editions down to that of Von Soden, issued in 1911-13. Of the Hebrew texts there are : the Soncino printed portions of 1485, the Bologna Psalter of 1477, and the Pentateuch of 1482, the Naples edition of 1491, the Brescia edition of 1494, and a long series of successive

editions down to and including the current editions of Ginsburg and Kittel.

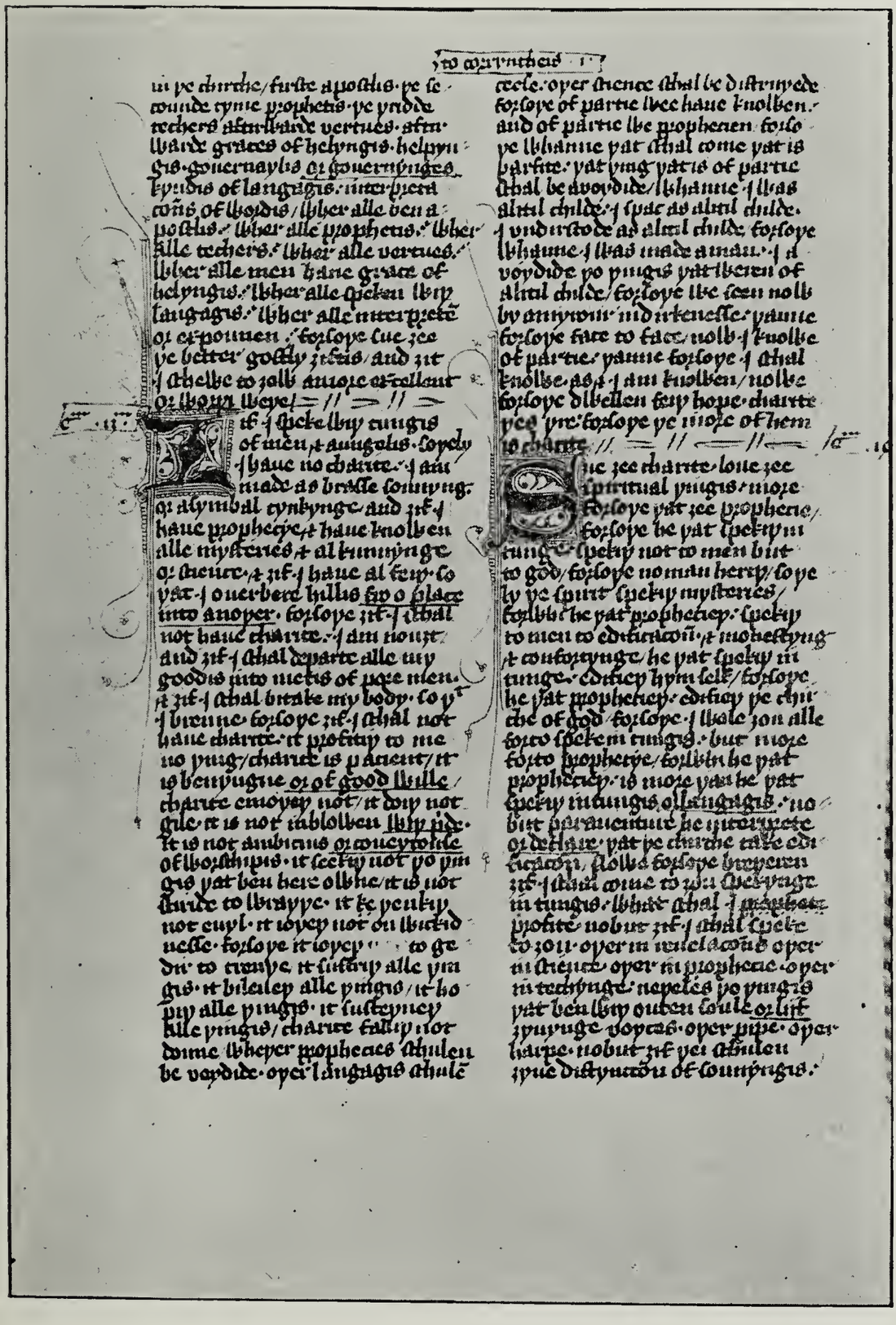
The translations into German include seven editions printed before 1484, the rare first New Testaments of Luther, issued in September and December, 1522, and his incomplete Bible of 1524, printed on vellum. In French there are, among others: the Lyons editions of 1475 and 1500, Vérard's Paris edition of 1517, three editions of Olivetan's Protestant translation, of which the first is of 1535, and Calvin's revision of the same, printed at Geneva in 1565. In Italian there are: the first edition printed at Venice in 1471 by Wendelin of Speier from the version of N. di Malherbi, and another Venetian edition of the same year, containing six engravings illustrating the story of the creation, which are found in no other copy, besides a number of other rare editions.

Of the other older translations there are: the Icelandic of 1584, the Danish of 1550, the Basque of 1571, the Bohemian of 1506, the Dutch of 1528, the Scottish Gaelic of 1690, the New England Virginian of John Eliot of 1661-63 and 1680-85, the Polish of 1563, the Slavonic of 1581, the Spanish New Testament of 1543, the Spanish Bible of 1553, one of the few known complete copies of Salesbury's Welsh New Testament of 1567, Morgan's Welsh Bible of 1588, the Manx Bible of 1771-73, the Chinese Bible printed at the Serampore Mission Press in 1815-22, which preceded the translation of Dr. Morrison, and others too numerous to be specifically mentioned. Indeed, if we include the more modern translations of the whole Bible or parts of it, issued by the various Bible Societies, upwards of four hundred languages or dialects are represented in the collection.

Before turning to the English Bibles it is perhaps of interest to remark that in the Psalter of Giustiniani, in five languages, printed at Genoa in 1516, is to be found, in a long Latin note on the nineteenth psalm, the first life of Columbus, in which are given some important particulars of his second voyage along the south coast of Cuba, nowhere else to be found.

That brings us to the English section, in which is fully illustrated the history of the English Bible from Wiclif to the present day.

It is a matter of surprise to most people when they learn for the first time that the presses of Caxton and of his successors had been in



18. A PAGE OF AN EARLY WICLIFITE NEW TESTAMENT

Manuscript, about 1400

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apō his face. But whēhe went before the Lorde to ſpeak with him, he toke the couerīge of vntill he came out. And he came out and ſpake vnto the childern of Iſrael that which he was commaunded. And the childern of Iſrael ſawe the face of Moſes, that the ſkynne of his face ſhone with beames: but Moſes put a couerynge vppon his face, vntill he went in, to comen with him.

Th: Pope ſpeaketh that whēne he is not commaunded.

The. xxxv. Chapter.

AND Moſes gathered all the companye of the childern of Iſrael together, and ſayde vnto them: theſe are the thinges which the Lorde hath commaunded to doo: Sixe dayes ye ſhall worke, but the ſeuenth daye ſhal be vnto you the holy Sabbath of the Lordes reſt: ſo that whoſoeuer doth any worke there in, ſhall dye. Moreouer ye ſhall kyndle no fyre thorow out all youre habitacyons apō the Sabbath daye.

And Moſes ſpake vnto all the multitude of the childern of Iſrael ſainge: this is the thinge which the Lorde cōmaūded ſaynge: Geue frō amōge you an heueoffringe, vnto the Lorde. All thatt are willynge in their hartes, ſhall brynge heueoffringes vnto the Lorde: golde, ſyluer, braſſe: Iacyncte, ſcarlet, purpull, byſſe ād gootes hare: rams ſkynnes red and taxus ſkynnes and

19. A PAGE OF TINDALE'S PENTATEUCH, 1530-34

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operation nearly fifty years before a single chapter of the Bible, as such, had appeared in print in the English language. It is true that Caxton, in his English version of the "Golden Legend," had printed in 1483 nearly the whole of the Pentateuch and a great part of the Gospels, under the guise of lives of Adam, Abraham, Moses, the Apostles and others, and that in the same year, in "The Festival" of John Mirk, he printed some Scripture paraphrases, but they are all mingled with so much mediæval gloss that, though they may have been read in the churches, they were never recognized as the Holy Scriptures. They were, however, the nearest approaches that the English people made to a printed Bible in their own tongue until the year 1525.

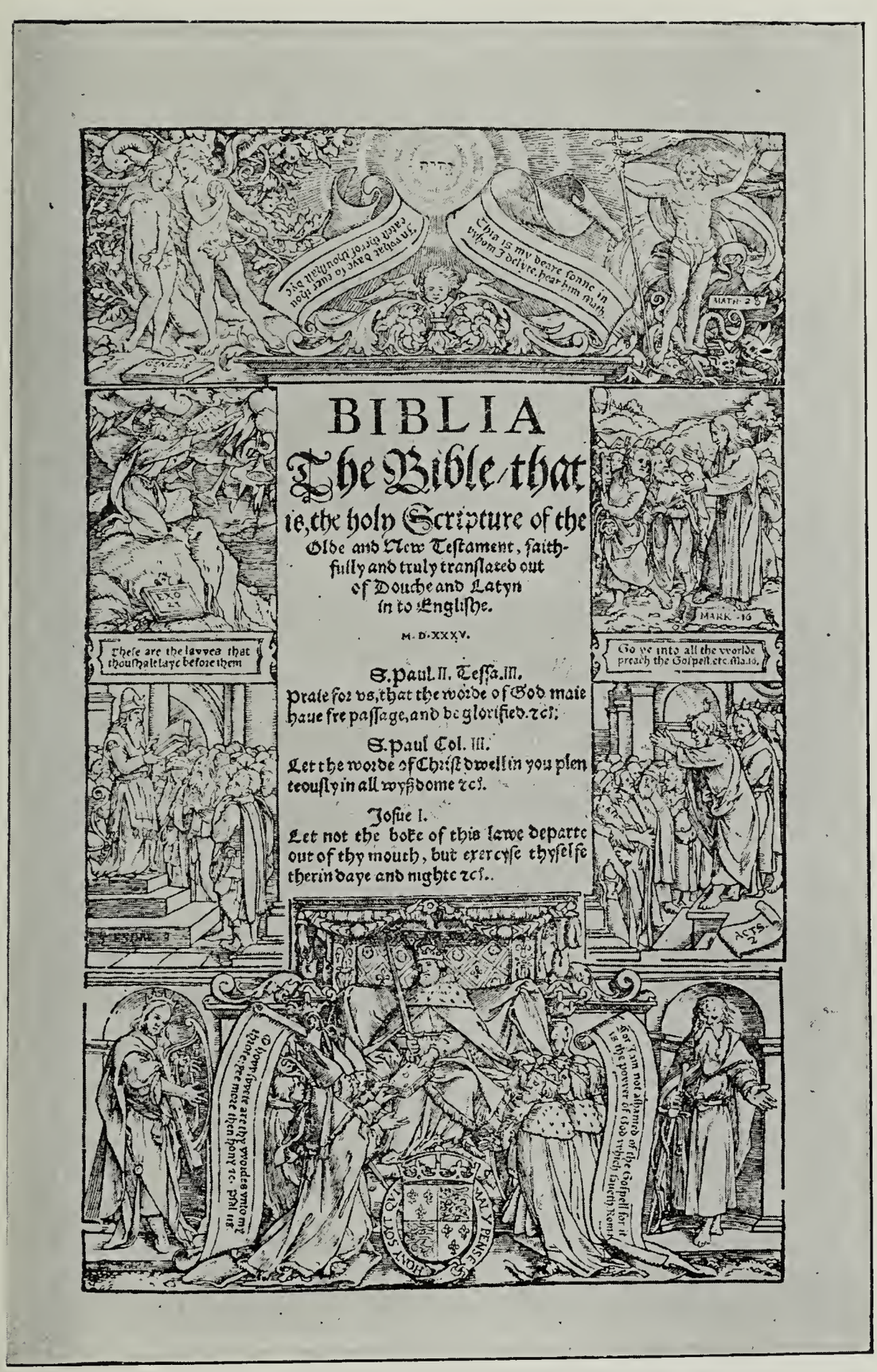
It is also true that many copies of the Bible and of the New Testament, translated into English by Wiclif and his followers, were scattered throughout the country in manuscript, and had given educated people and persons of quality a taste for the volume of Holy Writ. Thirteen of such manuscript copies are in the library. But such was the attitude of the Church of that day towards the circulation of the Bible in the language of the country, when it was declared to be a dangerous thing to place the Bible in the hands of the common people, that Caxton adopted a prudent, business-like course, and printed only such books as were likely to be allowed to circulate in peace.

It was not until 1523 that any serious attempt was made to give to the people of England the printed Bible in their own tongue. In that year William Tindale, under the influence of reflections growing out of circumstances of his life at Oxford, Cambridge, and Little Sodbury, contemplated the translation of the New Testament into English, as the noblest service he could render to his country. Happening one day to be in controversy with one of the reputed learned divines of his day, he was led to give utterance to the declaration with which his name will ever be associated: ". . . If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost." He went to London in the hope of finding a sympathetic patron in the person of the Bishop of London (Cuthbert Tonstall), under whose protection he might carry out his project. He was forced, however, slowly to the conclusion that not in England, but amid the dangers and privations of exile should the English Bible be produced. After a short residence in London he crossed to Hamburg, there completed his translation of

the New Testament from the original Greek, probably with the aid of Erasmus's Latin version of 1518, and Luther's German version of 1522. He then proceeded to Cologne to arrange for the printing, probably at the press of Peter Quentell. The work had not proceeded far when the Senate of Cologne were persuaded to issue an order prohibiting the printing. Before the order could be carried into effect Tindale took flight to Worms, where the enthusiasm for Luther was at its height, providing him with a safe retreat. Once at Worms, the work commenced and interrupted at Cologne was continued and finished. We have no evidence that the edition commenced at Cologne was ever completed. If it were, as some writers contend, then another edition in octavo must have been simultaneously issued, and large consignments were without delay smuggled into England. This "invasion of England by the Word of God," which Cardinal Wolsey did everything in his power to prevent, commenced early in the year 1526, probably in the month of March. In that same year the Testament was publicly and vigorously denounced by Bishop Tonstall at Paul's Cross and burned. It was publicly burned a second time in May, 1530.

So rigorously was the supression of this first New Testament carried out that only one small fragment of the Cologne quarto edition, and two imperfect copies of the Worms edition in octavo have survived. The former is preserved in the British Museum, one of the latter is in St. Paul's Cathedral Library, whilst the other is in the Baptist College at Bristol. We have, perforce, to be content with a facsimile on vellum, made by Francis Fry, of the Bristol copy, which is the more perfect of the two octavos, and a facsimile of the quarto fragment by Professor Arber.

Of the first revision of Tindale's Testament, printed at Antwerp in 1534, we possess two fine copies, and of the octavo edition of 1536, "yet once agayne corrected," the edition that appeared in the identical year of Tindale's martyrdom, we possess a perfect copy. From this point the library is rich in the numerous editions of Tindale's Testament. Having completed and issued his New Testament, Tindale settled down to the study of Hebrew in order to qualify himself for the translation of the Old Testament. In 1527 he took refuge in Marburg, where, in the intervals of study, he found time to issue his two most important controversial works : "The Parable of the Wicked



20. TITLE-PAGE OF "COVERDALE'S," THE FIRST PRINTED ENGLISH BIBLE, 1535

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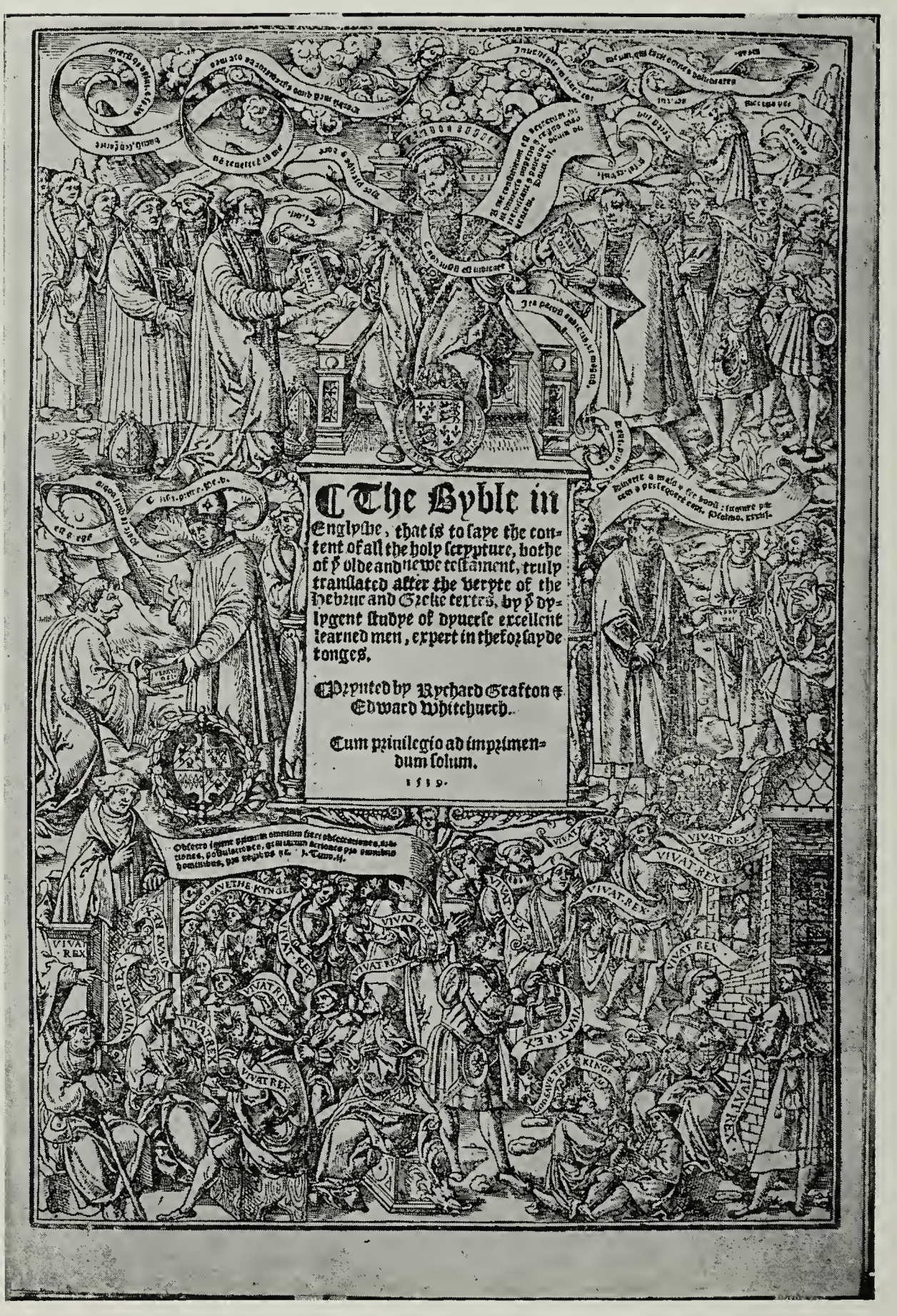

21. TITLE-PAGE OF THE "GREAT BIBLE," 1539

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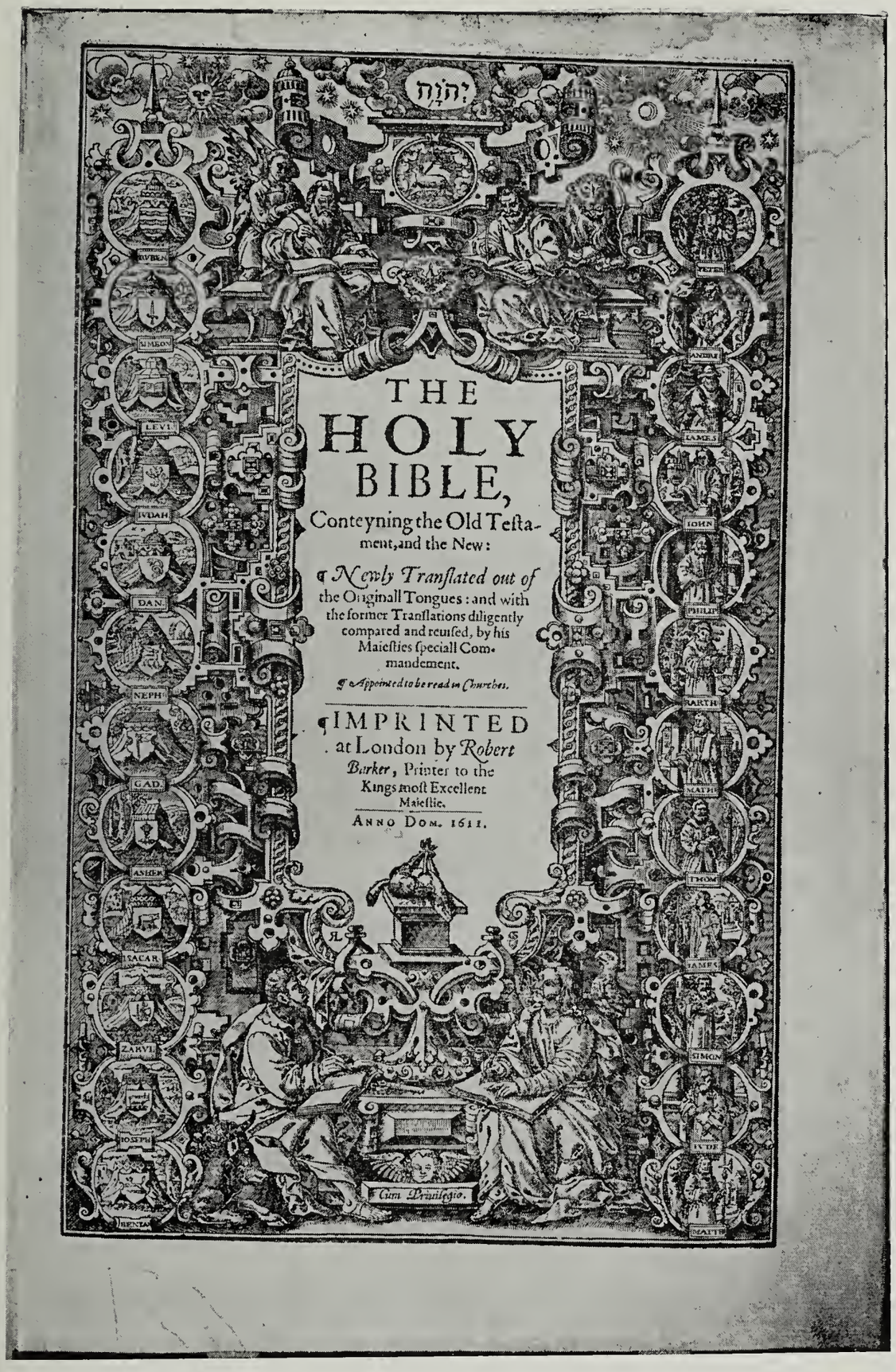

22. TITLE-PAGE OF THE FIRST EDITION OF THE "AUTHORISED VERSION," 1611, OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

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23. A PAGE OF LUTHER'S FIRST NEW TESTAMENT
September, 1522

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Mammon," and "The Obedience of a Christian Man," which appeared in the following year, 1528, and constituted his manifesto. Early in 1530 his translation of the "Pentateuch," made direct from the original Hebrew, with the aid of Luther's German version, was ready for circulation. Of this interesting volume there is a copy of the edition 1530-34, with all the marginal glosses intact; these glosses are usually cut away, as ordered by the Bishop, at least, the "most pestilent" of them. The reason for this order is quite obvious from a glance at the pages of the volume, where such comments are to be found as: "That is a good text for the Pope."

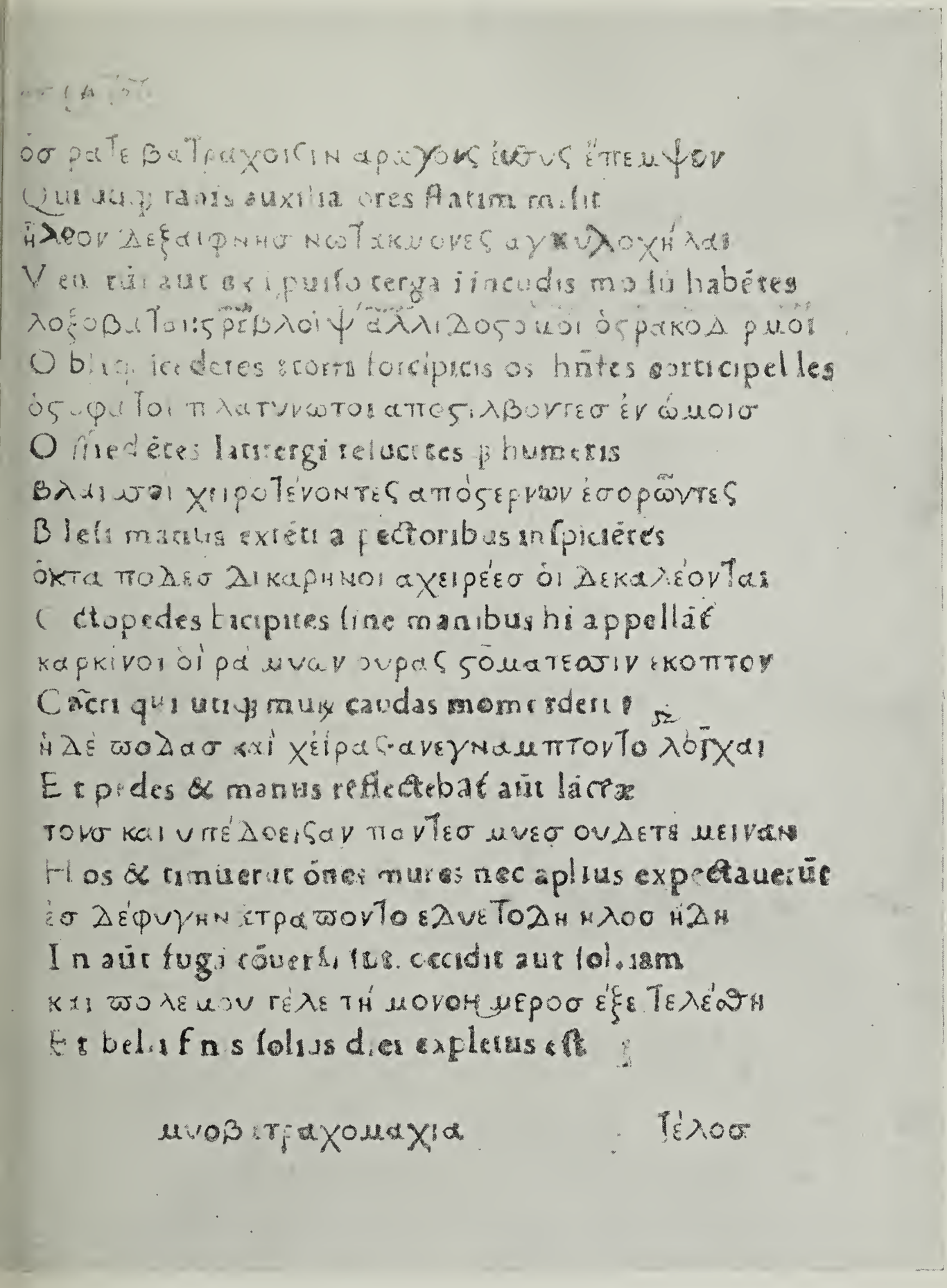
Of the first complete Bible printed in English, edited by Miles Coverdale and printed probably at Zurich, there are two copies, both slightly defective, as are all the known copies; of the second edition in quarto of the same version, issued at Southwark in 1537, our copy is the only perfect one known. Of the "Matthew Bible" of 1537, edited by John Rogers, an intimate friend of Tindale, and the first martyr in the Marian persecution, who issued it under the assumed name of "Thomas Matthew," we have two copies, one of which formerly belonged to George III., and bears the autograph of Thomas Cromwell upon its title-page. Copies of the following versions are also to be found upon the shelves: "Taverner's Bible" of 1537; the "Great Bible" of 1539; "Cranmer's Bible" of 1540; "Becke's Revision of Matthew's Bible" of 1549; the "Genevan Testament" of 1557, which formed the groundwork of the "Genevan Bible" of 1560, and was the first Testament to be printed in Roman type, and the first to show verse divisions; the "Genevan Bible" of 1560, the earliest English Bible to be issued in a handy and cheap form, which obtained speedy and permanent popularity, although never formally recognized by authority; for three generations it maintained its supremacy as the Bible of the people. Between 1560 and 1644 at least 150 editions of this popular version were called for. The "Bishops' Bible" of 1568 and 1572; Tomson's revision of the "Genevan Testament" of 1576; the earliest English Bible printed in Scotland by Arbuthnot and Bassandyne in 1576-79; the "Rhemes Testament" of 1582, which is the first Roman Catholic version of the New Testament printed in English; Fulke's refutation of the arguments and accusations contained in the "Rhemes Testament" of 1589; the "Doway Bible" of 1609-10; the "King James Bible,"

commonly called the "Authorized Version" of 1611; the "Cambridge Standard Edition" of 1762; the "Oxford Standard Edition" of 1769; and the later revisions, with copies of numerous intermediate editions of the various versions enumerated, furnishing a complete view of the history of the English text of the Bible.

THE GREEK AND LATIN CLASSICS.

On the classical side the library is pre-eminently rich, with its remarkable series of early, and of fine impressions of the Greek and Latin classics, which, with few exceptions, still retain the freshness they possessed when they left the hands of the printers more than four hundred years ago. On the occasion of the holding of the annual conference of the Classical Association in Manchester in 1906, we were able to exhibit of each of the fifty principal Greek and Latin writers the first printed edition, including the only known copy of the "Batrachomyomachia" of 1474, which has the distinction of being the first printed Greek classic. Incidental reference has been made already to the Vergils, of which there are seventeen editions printed before 1480. Even more conspicuous is the collection of early Ciceros, numbering seventy-five of such of his works as were printed before 1501, of which sixty-four are earlier than 1480. The value of such a series, apart from typographical considerations, as aids to textual criticism, is obvious enough when it is remembered that many of the manuscripts from which these texts were printed have since perished. Such was the feverish activity of the early printers that the editors in some cases did not scruple to hand over to the compositors the actual original manuscript from which their edition was taken after they had scribbled upon its margins their corrections, emendations and conjectural readings. The famous Ravenna codex of Aristophanes was actually used in this way.

The Ciceros include all the early editions of the "Officia," from that of Mainz, printed in 1465, to the Naples edition of 1479; six separate editions of "De oratore" from 1465 to 1485; five of the "Orationes," anterior to 1474; ten of the "Epistolæ ad familiares," earlier than 1480; the "Opera philosophica" of 1471; and several impressions of minor works of great rarity. Of Horace there are eight editions prior to 1480, including the rare first edition printed at Venice, probably in 1470. Of Ovid there are the editions of Bologna of 1471, of Rome of 1471, of Venice of 1474, of Parma of 1477, of



24. A PAGE OF "BATRACHOMYOMACHIA," THE FIRST PRINTED GREEK CLASSIC
Printed at Brescia [1474 ?]

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VMANA.COSA.E.LHAVER.
COMPASSIONE.AGLAFFLICTI.
ecome che adciascuna pſõa ſtia bene:adcoloro
maſſimamente è richeſto: liquali gia hanno
diconforto hauuto miſtieri.& hãnolo trouato
inalcuno,fra iquali ſe alcuno mai nhebbe:ogli
fu caro o gia nericiuette piaciere:Io ſono uno
di quelli,pcio che dala mia prima giouanezza
in ſino adqueſto tempo: oltra modo eſſendo ſtato acceſo da altiſſimo
& nobile amore fuorſe piu aſſai chelamia baſſa cõditione nõ parebbe,
narrandolo io ſirichiedeſſe:quãtunque appo coloro,che diſcreti erano
& ala cui notizia peruenne. Io nefuſſi lodato & damolto piu reputato:
Non dimeno,miſu egli digrandiſſima faticha aſſoffrire: certe non
per crudeltà dela donna amata: ma perſuperchio amore nela mente
conciepto dapocho regolato appetito,ilqual,percio animo regolato,o
cõueneuole termine milaſcia cõtento ſtare piu dinoia,che dibiſogno
nõera ſpeſſe uolte ſentire mifaceua. Nela qual noia,tãto refriggierio
miporſero ipiacieuoli ragionamenti dalcuno amico,& le dilecteuoli
ſue conſolationi,che io porto fermiſſima oppinione per quello eſſere
aduenuto,che non ſia morto. Ma ſicome adcolui piacque,ilquale
eſſendo egli infinito,diede perlegge inconmutabile adtutte lecoſe
mondane hauere fine: Ilmio amore oltre adognaltro feruẽte,ẽ ilquale
niuna forza diproponimento o diconſeglio,o diuergogna euidente,o
pericolo che ſeguire ne poteſſe haueua poſſuto ne rõpere, nepieghare
per ſemedeſimo improceſſo ditempo ſidiminuì inguiſa,cheſolo diſe
nela mẽte mia alpreſente ma laſciato quelpiacere,che uſato diporgiere
adchi troppo nõ ſimetteſſe ne ſuoi piu cupi pelaghi nauicãdo: perche
doue faticoſo eſſere ſoleua,ogni affanno,toglendomi dilecteuole mi
ſento eſſere rimaſu: Ma quantuque cieſſata ſia lapena,non percio e
lamemoria fuggita debeneficii gia recieuoti,datimi dacholoro: da-
quali perbeniuolenza daloro ad me portata erano graui lemie fatiche:
nepaſſerando mai ſicomio credo ſenon permorte: Et percio,chela
gratitudine ſecũdo chio credo fra laltre uirtù è ſõmamẽte dacõmẽdar,
et ilcontrario dabiaſimare per non parer ĩgrato,o mecho ſteſſo,ppoſto
di non uoler inquel pocho che per me ſipuo incambio dicio,cheio
ricieuetti hora che libero dire mipoſſo:& ſe nõ acoloro cheme aiuta-
rono: Aiquali per aduentura perlor ſenno,o per laloro buona uenuta

25. A PAGE OF THE FIRST PRINTED EDITION
OF BOCCACCIO'S "IL DECAMERONE"
Venice : Valdarfer, 1471

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Vicenza of 1480, and numerous early editions of the separate works, including the first edition of "De arte amandi," printed at Augsburg in 1471, and a copy of Churchyarde's English translation of "De Tristibus" of 1578. Of Livy there are eight fifteenth-century editions, including the first, printed at Rome in 1469, and that of 1470. Of Pliny's "Historia naturalis" there are seven editions before 1500, including the first, printed at Venice by John of Spire in 1469, a magnificent copy on vellum of the edition printed at Rome by Sweynheym and Pannartz, in 1470, and an equally magnificent vellum copy of Landino's Italian translation, printed at Venice by Jenson in 1476. Indeed, with scarcely an exception, the collection contains not only the first, but the principal editions of such other Latin authors as Cæsar, Catullus, Quintus Curtius, Lucan, Lucretius, Martial, Quintilian, Sallust, Seneca, Suetonius, Tacitus, Terence. Of the Greek writers there are the only known copy of the first Greek text ever printed, which is an edition of the "Batrachomyomachia," printed at Brescia by Thomas Ferrandus about 1474; the Florentine Homer of 1488; the Milan editions of Theocritus and Isocrates, both printed in 1493; the Milan Æsop of 1480; the Venetian Plautus of 1472, and the long series of Aldines to which reference has been made already. The later presses, such as those of Bodoni, Didot, and Baskerville and the modern critical editions are also very fully represented, together with all the facsimiles of the famous codices which have been issued within the last few years.

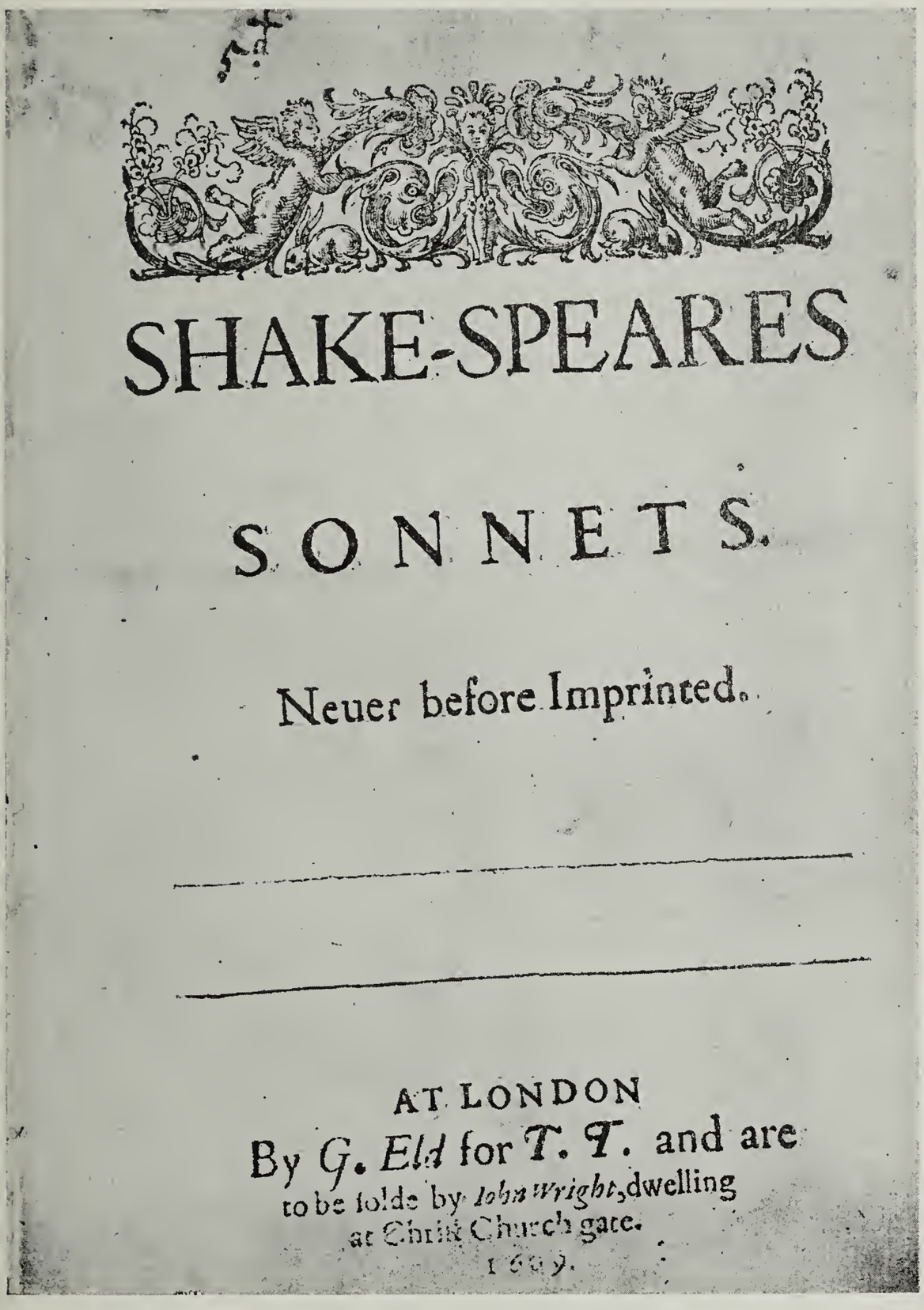
ITALIAN CLASSICS.

Of the great masters of Italian literature the library possesses a considerable collection. The Dante collection alone numbers upwards of 6000 volumes, including five manuscripts; and is specially rich in early editions of the "Divina Commedia," comprising the three earliest printed editions of 1472, issued respectively at Foligno, Jesi, and Mantua, two copies of the Florentine edition of 1481 with Landino's commentary, one of which contains the twenty engravings executed by Baldini in imitation of Sandro Botticelli; eight other editions of the fifteenth century; a large number of editions of the sixteenth and the succeeding centuries, including the Aldine edition of 1502, on vellum; and a large number of critical works. The collection of Boccaccio's "Il Decamerone" consists of eight fifteenth-century editions, including the only known

perfect copy of the "editio princeps," printed at Venice by Valdarfer in 1471, and a long series of the sixteenth-century and later editions. Of the other works of Boccaccio there are many of the early and much prized editions. There is a vellum copy of the French translation of "De Mulieribus claris" printed by Vérard of Paris in 1493. Also the extremely rare edition of the "Teseide," printed at Ferrara in 1475, and Pynson's two editions of the "Fall of Princes," translated by John Lidgate, and printed in 1494 and 1527. Of the various works of Boccaccio's friend, Petrarch, there is an equally large number of early editions, including the first edition printed at Venice in 1470, that rarest of all editions printed by Laver of Rome in 1471, and eleven other editions printed before 1486. Of Ariosto there are twenty-five editions of his "Orlando furioso" anterior to 1585, including the first edition of 1516 printed at Ferrara, the rare Venetian editions of 1527 and 1530, the Ferrara edition of 1532 being the last which was edited by Ariosto himself, the Roman edition of 1543, and the "Giolito edition" of the same year. Many other names could be mentioned, but these must suffice.

THE ENGLISH CLASSICS.

The department of English literature is also remarkable for its richness. It is not possible to do more than mention a few names, and therefore the extent of the collection must not be estimated by the limited number of works to which reference is made. Of Shakespeare there are two sets of the four folios printed in 1623, 1632, 1664 and 1685 respectively. One of the first folios is interesting as being the actual copy used by Theobald in the preparation of his edition of the poet's works, which was issued in 1733. It was purchased by George Steevens in 1754 for the modest sum of three guineas, at the sale of the library of Sir Martin Folkes, and consequently is the earliest copy of which there is any sale record. It was later bequeathed to Lord Spencer by Mr. Steevens. Of even greater interest than the first folio is the copy of "Mr. Shakespeare's Sonnets," printed in 1609, consequently during the lifetime of the poet, upon the title-page of which is a contemporary mark in manuscript, "5d."; also a copy of the edition of 1640, containing the copy of the Droeshout portrait by W. Marshall. The copy of the edition of the plays edited by S. Johnson and G. Steevens in 1793 is Steevens' own copy, which he himself enriched by the insertion of some thousands of



SHAKE-SPEARES

SONNETS.

Neuer before Imprinted.

AT LONDON
By *G. Eld* for *T. T.* and are
to be solde by *John Wright*, dwelling
at Christ Church gate.
1609.

26. TITLE-PAGE OF SHAKESPEARE'S "SONNETS"
London, 1609

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RATSEIS

GHOST.

OR

The second Part
of his madde Prankes and Robberies.

Printed by *V. S.* and are to be sold by *Iohn Hodgets* in Paules Churchyard.

27. TITLE-PAGE OF "RATSEIS GHOST" PART 2 [1605]

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engravings, many of which are of extreme rarity. Chaucer, the father of English poetry, is represented by all the earliest editions, commencing with "The Canterbury Tales" printed by Caxton in 1478. Gower's "Confessio Amantis" of 1483 is there, with Spenser's "Faerie Queene" of 1590-96, and his very rare "Amoretti and Epithalamion" of 1595; Milton's "Paradise Lost," in seven editions, of 1667 to 1669; two copies of each of his "Comus," 1637, and his "Lycidas," 1638; the "Poems: both English and Latin," 1645, in two issues; the first edition of Walton's "Compleat Angler," 1653; Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," 1678; "Pilgrim's Progress," second part, 1684; "The Holy War," 1682; his first published book: "Some Gospel Truths Opened," 1656, and several other works of the sturdy Puritan in the form in which they first made their appearance. Of "Pierce Plowman" there is a vellum copy printed in 1550; Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy," 1621; Drayton's "The Owle," 1604, and "Polyolbion," 1613; Ben Jonson's "Works," 1616; Sir Thomas More's "Works," 1557; his "Utopia," 1551; the Earl of Surrey's "Songes and Sonettes," 1567, and a long series of the original editions of other great classics of England, including a large number of the smaller pieces of Elizabethan and Restoration literature. On the modern side there is an equally representative collection of the original issues of the works of the principal writers such as Tennyson, Browning, Ruskin, Byron, Lamb, and Leigh Hunt, to mention only one or two of the outstanding names, together with all the modern critical literature which students are likely to require in conducting their research.

There is also a copy of the fourth and last edition of Dr. Johnson's "Dictionary," 1773, corrected by the author in his own handwriting, which belonged formerly to Sir Joshua Reynolds.

FRENCH, SPANISH, GERMAN, AND OTHER LITERATURES.

In French literature the library is particularly rich in the sixteenth and seventeenth century writers, including a number of finely illustrated editions of the great classics, whilst the modern writers, comprising the more recent schools of poetry, together with the critical literature surrounding them, are to be found abundantly represented.

There is an excellent collection of Spanish and of German literature, and to a lesser degree of Portuguese and Russian, whilst the other

minor literatures have not been neglected. Indeed, the student of comparative literature will find here most of the authorities he is likely to need for consultation in the course of his investigations. Not only will he find the masterpieces of literature, those great books which have been made great by the greatness of the personalities that gave them life, but he will find them surrounded by the wide range of critical literature to which they have given rise.

The departments of classical philology, and of Oriental and modern European languages, include all the important reference books, with the working material necessary for linguistic studies. PHILOLOGY.

There are a number of early maps and atlases, amongst which may be mentioned Saxton's "Atlas of England and Wales" of 1579, Blaeu's "Atlas Major," 1662, in eleven volumes folio, and a very extensive series of the early voyages and travels, including rare works on the discovery and colonization of America by the Spaniards and the English, many scarce Dutch and Spanish works on the East and West Indies, such famous collections as Hakluyt, De Bry, Purchas, Smith, Cook, Bougainville and Clark, together with the more modern works of geographical science, including the publications of the Hakluyt, Champlain and Navy Records Societies, and a set of "The Mariner's Mirror." VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

The historical section which has been gradually and systematically built up by well-selected purchases, commences to attain some measure of completeness, so that students, whether of the ancient, classical, mediæval, or modern periods, will find the library's range very comprehensive. It is well equipped in the matter of the great historical collections, such as: Rymer, Rushworth, Montfaucon, Pertz, Muratori, the "Monumenta Germaniæ Historica," "Le Recueil des Historiens des Gaules," "Gallia Christiana," "Documents inédits sur l'histoire de France," "Commission Royale d'histoire de Belgique," "Chroniken der deutschen Städte," the various "Collections des mémoires relatifs à l'histoire de France," the "Rolls Series of Chronicles and Memorials," the "Calendars of State Papers," the "British and Foreign State Papers," compiled by the Librarian and Keeper of the Papers, Foreign Office, the "Acta Sanctorum" of the HISTORY.

Bollandists, the collections of Wadding, Manrique, Holstenius-Brockie, the principal editions of the mediæval chroniclers, together with the publications of the most important of the archæological and historical societies of this country, and of Europe generally, as well as of America, and the principal historical periodicals of this and other countries. Quite recently special attention has been given to the history of India and America, with the result that collections of some thousands of volumes have been obtained, with a view of encouraging research in these fields of study. For the history of India the collection of research material, both manuscript and printed, is very extensive, consisting of state papers, government reports and publications, many of which, printed in remote parts of India, would have been unprocurable but for the generous assistance rendered by the Secretary of State for India. For the history of the East India Company and Warren Hastings, the material is especially rich. The student of American history will find, in addition to many of the rare early printed sources and the standard modern authorities, complete sets of the publications and transactions of historical associations of the various states. The collection of pamphlets, numbering upwards of 15,000, is of extreme importance, offering valuable original material for research in the study of the Civil War, the Popish Plot, the Revolution of 1688, the Non-Juror controversy, the Solemn League and Covenant, of English politics under the first three Georges, to a lesser extent for the French Revolution and the "Convulsionnaire" agitation at Paris in the early part of the reign of Louis XV. The few titles and topics mentioned are only intended to indicate the wide scope of the library, covering as it does the whole field of history, from the ancient Empires of the East, through the Greek and Roman periods, down to the present day. In a later paragraph we shall refer to the rapidly growing collection of manuscript material, consisting of charters and other documents awaiting investigation.

The topographical and genealogical collections, which are very extensive, should also be mentioned as of importance. Indeed, every effort is being used to make this department of the library still more efficient to meet the requirements of the students engaged on special research. Reference should also be made to the fact that many of the county histories, biographies, and special histories, have been extra illustrated, with the result that the library also contains pictorial matter

in the form of tens of thousands of prints, representing persons and places, many of which are of extreme rarity.

THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY.

Theology occupies a prominent place in the library by reason of the special character that was impressed upon it from its inception. The original intention of the founder was to establish a library, the chief purpose of which should be the promotion of the higher forms of religious knowledge. It is true the scope of the institution was enlarged by the purchase of the Althorp collection, but in the selection of the 230,000 volumes which have been acquired since 1899, the governors have steadily kept in view the founder's original intention. Reference has already been made to the Biblical texts. In the matter of patristic and scholastic theology the library is very rich, especially in the early printed texts, whilst of the Benedictine editions of the Fathers there is a complete set. There are twenty works of St. Thomas Aquinas, all printed before 1480; thirty editions of St. Augustine, ranking between 1467 and 1490; seven editions of St. Chrysostom anterior to 1476; two editions of the "Epistolæ" of St. Cyprian, printed in 1471; ten editions of various works of St. Jerome printed before 1500. The liturgical section is very strong, its collections of early missals and breviaries being specially noteworthy. There are twenty missals printed between 1475 and 1504, beginning with that of Ulrich Han of Rome, printed in 1475 on vellum, and ending with that printed by Giunta at Venice in 1504, including the famous Mozarabic or Gothic text of 1500, printed by command of Cardinal Ximenes for the use of Goths residing in Spain, and the two Sarum Missals on vellum, printed by Richard Pynson in 1500 and 1504. There are eight Breviaries printed before 1500, of which six are on vellum, including the rare Mainz edition of 1477, and the Ambrosian Breviary of 1487. There are also a number of the early sixteenth-century editions, including the copy of the Sarum use on vellum, printed in 1508 by Richard Pynson. The "Codex liturgicus ecclesiæ universæ" of Assemanus, 1749-63, is upon the shelves, together with a set of Mansi's "Sacrorum conciliorum nova et amplissima collectio." "The Book of Common Prayer" is represented by a long and interesting range of editions, including two of the first, issued in London in 1549, the rare quarto edition printed at Worcester in the same year, and Merbeck's

"Common Prayer Noted," of 1550, followed by all the important revisions and variations. There are a number of the early Primers, and fifty editions of the dainty Books of Hours printed in Paris in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. The works of the reformers are well represented, with a large number of Luther's tracts, including the original edition, in book form, of the famous "Theses" against the system of indulgences, printed in 1517, and affixed by him to the gate of the University of Wittemberg, and his "Deudsch Catechismus" of 1529; a number of the earliest printed works of Erasmus, Ulrich von Hutten, Philipp Melanchthon, Girolamo Savonarola, Ulrich Zwingli, William Tindale, John Frith, William Roy, Miles Coverdale, Jean Calvin, including "The Catechisme" of 1556, Knox, Bunyan, and the first edition of the "Actes and Monuments" of John Fox. The great devotional books, such as: St. Augustine's "Confessions," the "Imitatio Christi," the "Speculum Vitæ Christi," Hylton's "Scala perfectionis," the "Ars Moriendi," and the "Ordinary of Christian Men" are all to be found in the earliest, and in the later editions of importance.

On the modern side the student will find the library fully equipped in the departments of Biblical criticism, dogmatic theology, liturgiology, hagiography, church history, and comparative religion.

The ancient, mediæval, and modern schools of philosophy are fully represented, especially in metaphysics, experimental psychology, and psychical science.

SOCIOLOGY.

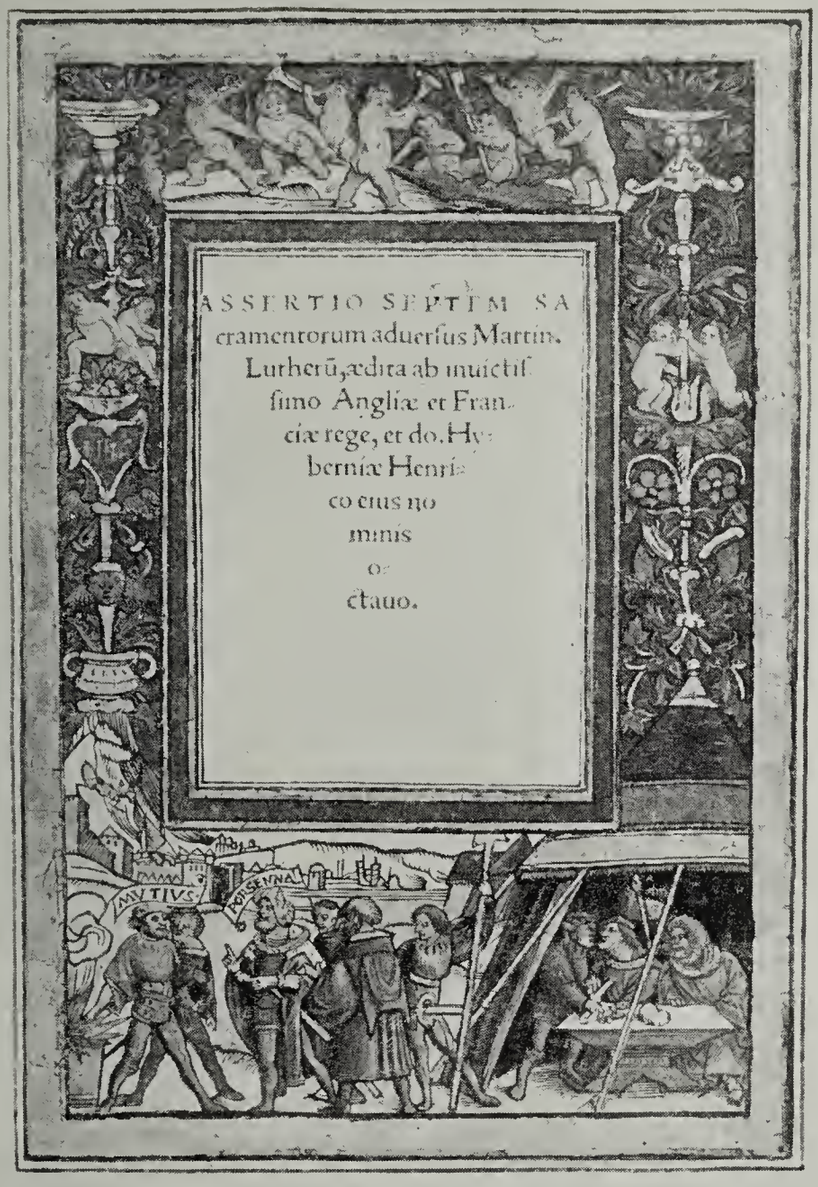
Sociology both on its political and economic side, and from the side of legal history, is well provided for, whilst in constitutional law and history, international law, and Roman law and jurisprudence, the equipment is thoroughly representative, including a special collection of the principal texts and commentaries of Justinian. The subject of Education is also well represented, both from the historical point of view, as from the standpoint of theory and practice. The works of the early humanist educators in the original editions will be found, side by side with the leading authorities in each department and period down to the present day, including a set of the "Monumenta Germaniæ Pedagogica."

Bibliography, which may be regarded as the grammar of literary

investigation, is extremely well represented. One of the foremost aims of the library, from the outset, has been to provide the student, in whatever direction his studies may lie, with a bibliography of his subject, when one exists, as the most essential tool of research. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

A special feature of the library is the periodical room, in which are made accessible to students the leading periodicals of all countries to the number of nearly 500, dealing with such subjects as history, philology, philosophy, theology, literature, art, and archæology. The current numbers lie open for consultation in the Periodical Room, and with very few exceptions, complete sets of each from its commencement are in the possession of the library, constituting in many cases an unexplored mine of valuable research material. PERIODICALS.

The library possesses a large number of books which have an interest in themselves as coming from the libraries of such famous collectors as Grolier, Thomas Maioli, Canevari, Marcus Laurinus, De Thou, Comte d'Hoym, Duc de La Vallière, Loménie de Brienne, Diane de Poitiers, Henri II, Margaret de Valois, Marie de Medicis, Charles d'Angoulême, the French and the English Kings and Queens, Thomas Wotton (who has come to be known as the English Grolier), many Popes and lesser church dignitaries, and others too numerous to mention. As an indication of the interest surrounding such volumes, mention may be made of a few taken at random. There is a copy on vellum of the "Assertio Septem Sacramentorum adversus M. Lutherum" of Henry VIII, for which he received the title "Defensor Fidei," and which he presented to Louis II, King of Hungary, with an inscription in his own handwriting "Regi Daciae," on the binding of which are the arms of Pope Pius VI. The Aldine edition of Petrarch of 1501 is from the library of Cardinal Bembo, and contains marginalia in his handwriting. If, as one authority has declared, "To own one or two examples from Jean Grolier's library is to take high rank as a bibliophile," this library merits a commanding position, since it possesses thirteen such volumes, one of which contains this collector's autograph, whilst another is filled with marginalia said to be in his handwriting. Of books from the library of Thomas Maioli there are seven in an excellent state of preservation. The copy HISTORIC BOOKS.



28. TITLE-PAGE OF HENRY VIII'S "ASSERTIO SEPTEM SACRAMENTORUM"

London, 1522

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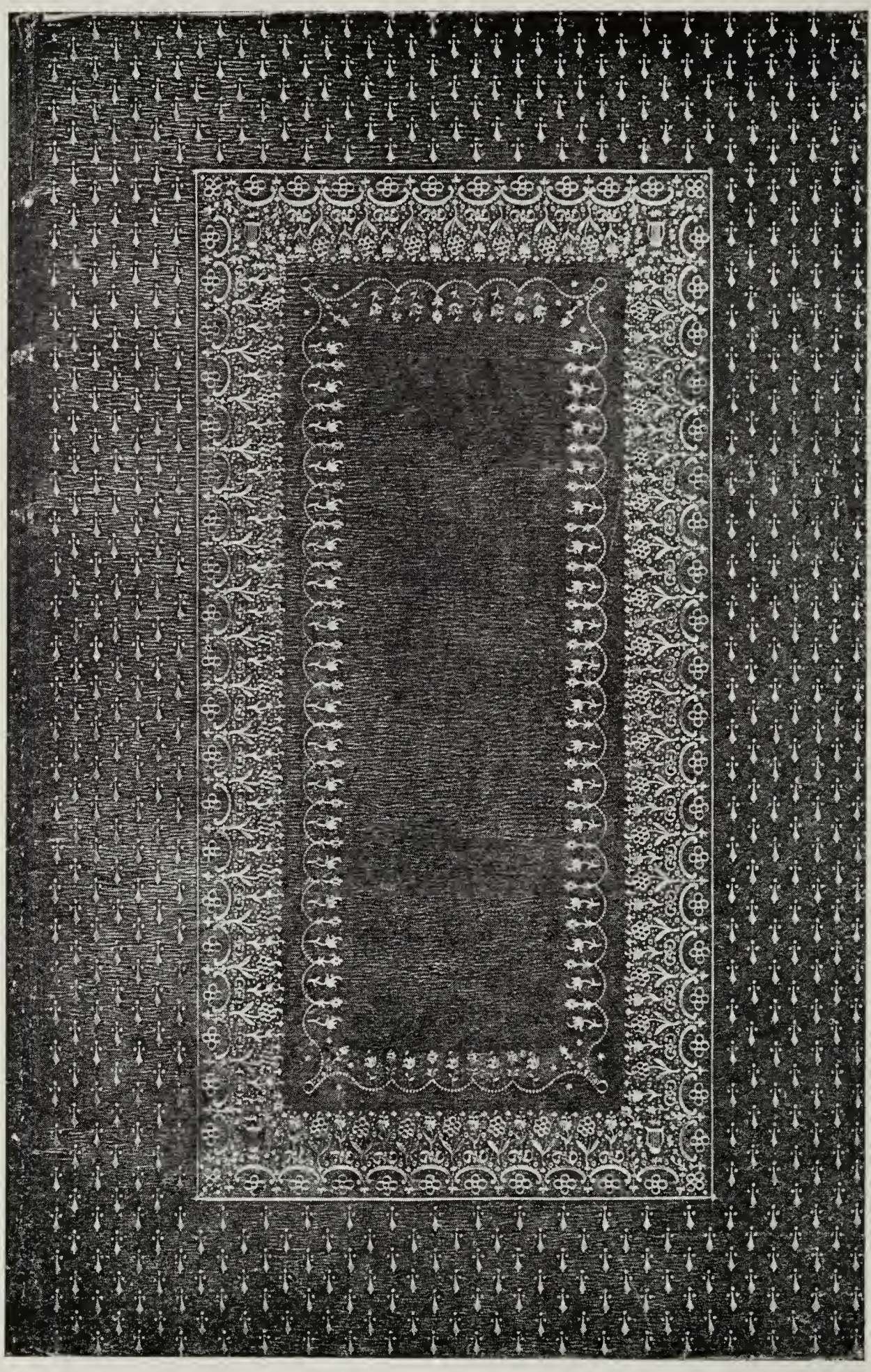

29. THE GLASGOW AESCHYLUS OF 1795 WITH FLAXMAN'S DRAWINGS, BOUND BY ROGER PAYNE

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of the first edition of the "Epistolæ obscurorum virorum," the tract which caused so great a stir at the time of the Reformation, belonged to Philip Melanchthon, and contains many marginalia from his pen. Martin Luther's "In primum librum Mose ennarationes," 1544, has upon its title-page an inscription in Hebrew and Latin, said to be in Luther's handwriting, presenting the book to Marc Crodel, rector of the College of Torgau. Other volumes notable by reason of their ownership are: the "Book of Hours" which belonged to Mary Queen of Scots, having two inscriptions in her handwriting; the manuscript copy of Wiclif's Gospels, which was presented to Queen Elizabeth in Cheapside when on her way to St. Paul's, an event which is recorded in Holinshed's "Chronicles"; the "Book of Hours" of King Charles VII of France; the Psalter which belonged to Queen Joan of Navarre, the second consort of our King Henry IV, bearing her autograph; the "Book of Devotions" written and illuminated by or for the Abbot John Islip, the builder of the Chantry Chapel of Henry VII in Westminster Abbey, bearing in the illuminated borders the same punning rebus on his name which is to be found in the carvings of the Chapel, and presented to Henry VII, with the arms of the King on the binding; the gorgeous "Missale Romanum" with many illuminations by Clovio, bearing the arms of Cardinal Pompeo Colonna and said to have been presented to him when he was raised to the Cardinalate; the Gospel Book which belonged to the Emperor Otto the Great, bearing on one of its illuminated pages his effigy. Coming nearer to our own day there is the Bible which Elizabeth Fry used daily for many years, which is full of marks and comments in her handwriting. The Bible from Hawarden Church is of interest as being the identical copy from which W. E. Gladstone frequently read the lessons in the course of divine service between 1884 and 1894. There is also the original manuscript of Bishop Heber's hymn "From Greenland's Icy Mountains". Another volume of more than ordinary interest, the "Valdarfer Boccaccio," to which reference has been made already, came into prominence at the sale of the Duke of Roxburghe's books in 1812, when it realised the sum of £2260. It was in honour of the sale of that particular volume that the Roxburghe Club was founded by Dibdin. The copy of the Glasgow Æschylus of 1759 has bound up with it the original drawings of Flaxman, and is clothed in a binding by Roger Payne, which is always spoken of as his

masterpiece. Such are a few of the books possessing a personal history, which, in considerable numbers are to be found upon the shelves.

FAMOUS BINDINGS.

If the books themselves excite interest and admiration, not less striking is the appropriateness, and often the magnificence of their bindings. Lord Spencer believed that a good book should be honoured by a good binding, and he either sought out copies so distinguished or had them clothed in bindings of the highest artistic excellence. Of the many specimens in the library illustrating the history of the art from the fifteenth century to the present day, we need only refer to the great artists who worked for the famous collectors named in the preceding paragraph as figuring in the collection, with examples of the work of Clovis and Nicolas Eve, Le Gascon, Boyet, the two Deromes, the Padeloups, Geoffrey Tory, Bozerian, Thouvenin, Mearne, the English masters of the seventeenth century, whose names, unhappily, have been forgotten, and of Roger Payne, the man who by native genius shines out among the decadent craftsmen of the late eighteenth century as the finest binder England has produced. The library possesses the largest collection extant of Payne's bindings, including the Glasgow "Æschylus," already referred to as his finest work, and the unfinished binding of the Aldine "Homer," which he did not live to complete. Several of Payne's bills are in the library, which are remarkable documents, containing, as they do, in many cases, interesting particulars as to his methods of workmanship. The tradition of fine binding was continued after Payne's death by certain German binders, Kalthoeber, Staggemeier, and others, who settled in London, also by Charles Lewis, and Charles Hering who especially imitated his manner, but lacked the original genius of Payne, and his delicacy of finish. We may perhaps permit ourselves to refer to one piece of Hering's work which, more than any other, enables us to draw a comparison between his work and that of Payne. It is the Aldine "Homer," already referred to, which was left by Payne in an unfinished state. The second volume was entrusted by Lord Spencer to Hering, evidently with instructions to match the work of Payne. A careful comparison of the two volumes reveals the interesting fact that Hering did not use Payne's tools, but evidently had others cut to match them. These lack the delicacy of design of the

early tools, and indeed the forwarding and finishing throughout will not bear comparison with the work of the master hand of England's greatest binder. One striking difference to be remarked in the two volumes, is that in the volume rebound by Payne the edges are left untouched, but in the one rebound by Hering the plane has been ruthlessly employed. Many specimens of the work of these successors of Payne are to be found scattered throughout the library. The library is almost equally rich in specimens of the work of the great modern binders, especially since the advent of the Lloyd Roberts Collection. These include the work achieved by Trautz-Bauzonnet, David, Lortic, Marius Michel, Chambolle-Duru, Cuzin, Edwards of Halifax, Francis Bedford, Rivière, Cobden Sanderson, Prideaux, Fazakerley, and Zaehnsdorf, to mention the most prominent names. Indeed, it is not too much to say that the whole history of the art of binding might be written from the examples assembled on the shelves of this library.

We can only make a brief reference to the thirty jewelled covers with which some of the manuscripts are adorned, which impart to them a character and value of a very special kind. Further details will be given in the section dealing with the manuscripts, to which department they properly belong. The extraordinary rarity of these metal and ivory bindings may be gauged by the fact that this collection, whilst containing only thirty examples, yet ranks third among the collections of the world. Many of the covers are of great beauty and interest, none the less so for the process of building up which they have undergone in long past centuries. The normal course seems to have been as follows : a monastery owned a precious tenth century "textus" or manuscript of the Gospels ; it also possessed an ivory "pax" or tablet carved with one or more scenes from the life of Christ, of, perhaps, a century later. A century later still it occurred to some rich abbot to have the second mounted as a cover for the first, and he would call in some jeweller or metal worker from Cologne or Liège, who would encase the tablet in a metal frame richly encrusted with jewels, which had been bequeathed to the church for the enrichment of the reliquary or the altar books, to make the same into a binding to protect the manuscript. Several of the covers to which reference is made partake of the character of reliquaries, since under the rock crystals set as a rule at each of the four corners, relics of saints have been preserved ; unfortunately no information is at present

available to enable us to determine the identity of the saints so honoured.

The collection also includes a number of very fine Oriental bindings, of which the Persian specimens in particular are of very great beauty.

Then it should be mentioned that for the study of this art or craft, whether from the historical or practical point of view, there is a complete equipment of the principal authorities.

Much might have been written about the large collection of "unique" books, that is to say printed books of which the only known copy is in the possession of the library, but we must content ourselves with this passing allusion to it. Of books printed on vellum the collection numbers upwards of five hundred, many of which are of extreme rarity, and also of great beauty. There are a number of very fine extra-illustrated or "Grangerised" works, such as Rapin's "History of England" in twenty-one folio volumes; Pennant's "Some Account of London" in six volumes; Clarendon's "History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England" in twenty-one volumes; Shakespeare in seventeen volumes; Chalmers' "Biographical Dictionary" in thirty-two volumes; and many others.

There is a complete set of the astronomical works of Hevelius, seldom found in a condition so perfect.

Although ornithology and botany are somewhat out of the range of the library's interests, there is a fine collection of the great bird books of Audubon, Gould, Dresser, and Lilford, to name the principal authorities; and a number of the great herbals, ranging from the Latin and German editions of the "Herbarius" of 1484 and 1485, to Sander's "Reichenbachia" of 1888-94, including the original or best editions of Gerard, Parkinson, Curtis, Jacquin, Dodoens, Culpepper, etc.

ART SECTION.

The art section comprises the great European "galleries," the principal monographs on the great masters, a complete set of the engravings of Piranesi, a set of Turner's "Liber Studiorum" in the best states, and a large collection of works on architecture. The applied arts are also well represented. Indeed, the art student will find abundant material in whatever direction his quest may lead him.

Another of the outstanding features of the library is its collection of Oriental and Western manuscripts, the nucleus of which consisted of a small group of less than a hundred examples contained in the Althorp Library. These were added to from time to time as opportunities occurred, but the present magnificence and character of the collection was determined by the acquisition, in 1901, of the "Crawford Manuscripts," numbering about six thousand codices, rolls, and tablets, a number of which are encased in jewelled covers.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION.

It may be said, therefore, that the Rylands collection of manuscripts owes a great deal to the foresight and scholarly judgment of the successive members of the House of Lindsay, who have been responsible for the formation of the great private library, which is best known to scholars as: the "Bibliotheca Lindesiana," of which the manuscripts referred to form but a small, though a very precious part. Such being the case, it will not be out of place, and it will certainly not be without interest to many of our readers, to learn something of its genesis and growth, since it is one of the few surviving great private libraries in the country.

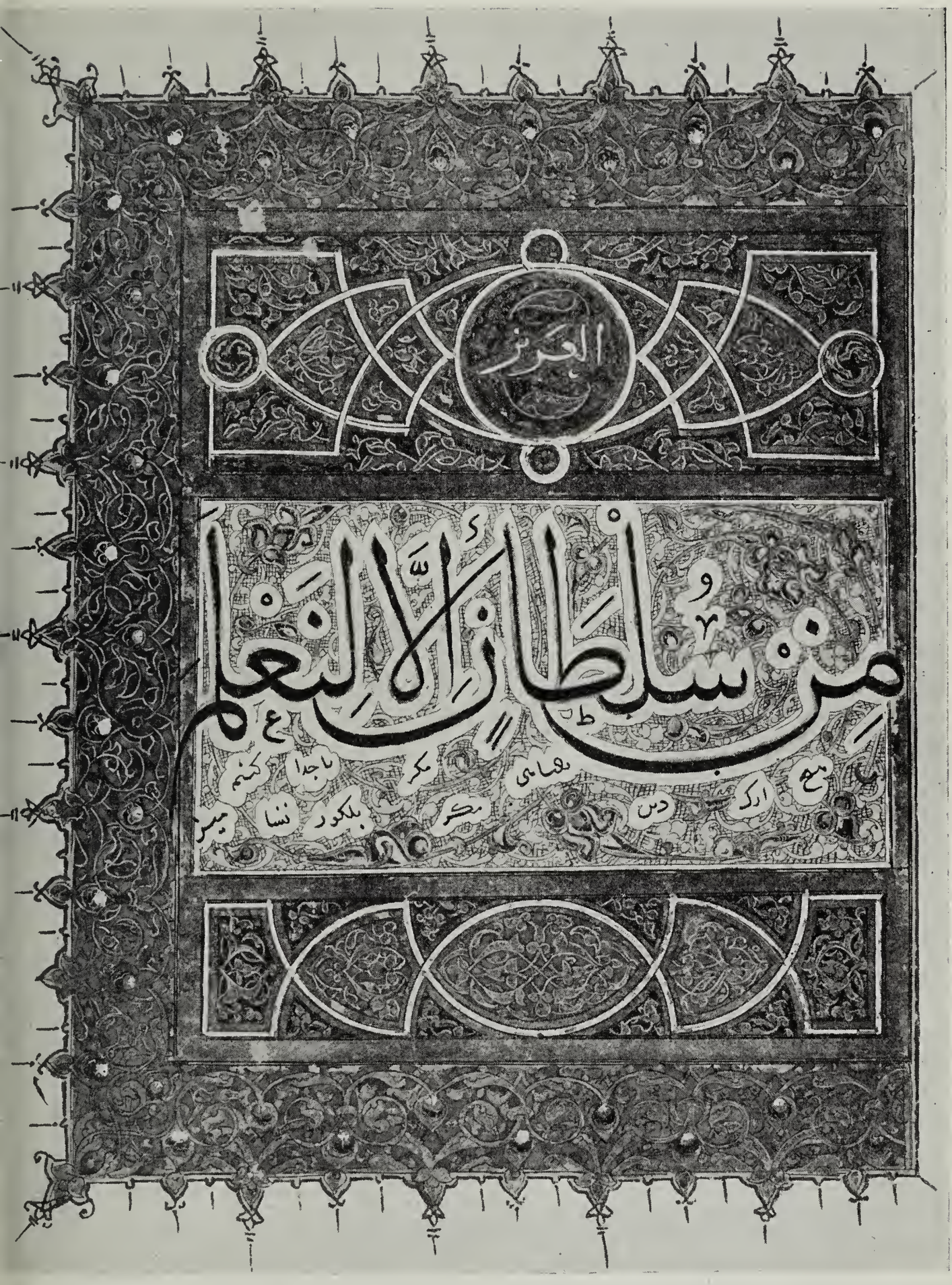
The "Bibliotheca Lindesiana" is housed in Haigh Hall, which stands upon a wooded hill commanding the town of Wigan and the surrounding country. It was built about 1830 by the 24th Earl of Crawford, and it was partly to furnish its bare walls that his son, in whom was revived the old Lindsay passion for book-collecting, began, as a boy at Eton, to gather the volumes which now fill several rooms and passages of the house. It was an old passion, for so long ago as the days of James VI. of Scotland, John Lindsay, Lord Menmuir, filled with books and historical papers the old mansion-house of Balcarres, which he had purchased and brought into his family. He and his grandson, Alexander, the first Earl of Balcarres, friend of Drummond of Hawthornden and of Abraham Cowley, there built up the first Lindsay Library. It fell to pieces later on, the important historical manuscripts were given to the Advocates' Library, in 1712, where they are still preserved, and the books were soon after scattered. A few of the latter have been recovered, but only enough to fill a couple of shelves at Haigh, where it is possible to read with interest the signatures: "Johannes Lindsay"

BIBLIOTHECA LINDESIANA.

and "Balcarres." But these hardly count in comparison with the collection begun by the 24th Earl, the Lord Lindsay of "Christian Art" fame, and his son the late Earl. In their hands the library grew to about one hundred thousand volumes of printed books, and the six thousand manuscripts, which have now passed into the possession of the John Rylands Library.

Preserved amongst the papers at Haigh Hall is a vast letter of some two hundred and fifty foolscap pages, written to the late Earl by his father, in 1864, in which he describes: "the present state and future prospects of the Crawford or Balcarres Library, or what I presumptuously prefer to call the Lindsian Library"—the "Bibliotheca Lindesiana," whose name is inscribed on the book-plate. The scheme is probably the most comprehensive that any private book-collector has ever formed in modern times, and we venture to express the hope that the present Earl may some day find time to edit for the press this intensely interesting document.

The library was to be thoroughly representative of all the literatures of the world. It was to contain not everything of course, but the best of everything: "the best that has been known and thought in the world," if we may so apply Arnold's phrase. All the literatures of Europe were to be represented by the best poets and prose writers, in the best editions, both those issued in the lifetime of the authors, and those of modern and critical ages. The literatures of the countries which have been slow in adopting printing were to be represented by the finest obtainable manuscripts. The history of each country was to be treated in the same way; so that there are on the shelves which contain, say, the Italian collections, perhaps a thousand volumes of history, and twice as many of pure literature. Then there are certain special collections, which, even after the manuscripts had been withdrawn, gave to the library a character of its own. Perhaps, nowhere in private hands are to be found such multitudes of broadsides, proclamations, English and Scottish ballads, papal bulls, Civil War tracts, seventeenth-century newspapers and news-sheets, and of ephemeral documents illustrating the French Revolution. There is an extraordinary collection of Lutheran and Reformation tracts, probably the largest known collection of De Bry's Voyages, collections of Incunabula, of early examples of the work of Scottish presses, and of other subjects too numerous to mention. The "Catalogue of the



30. ḲUR'ĀN (XXXIV. 20). ARABIC TEXT WITH PERSIAN AND OLD TURḲI TRANSLATIONS (XIVth-XVth CENT.)

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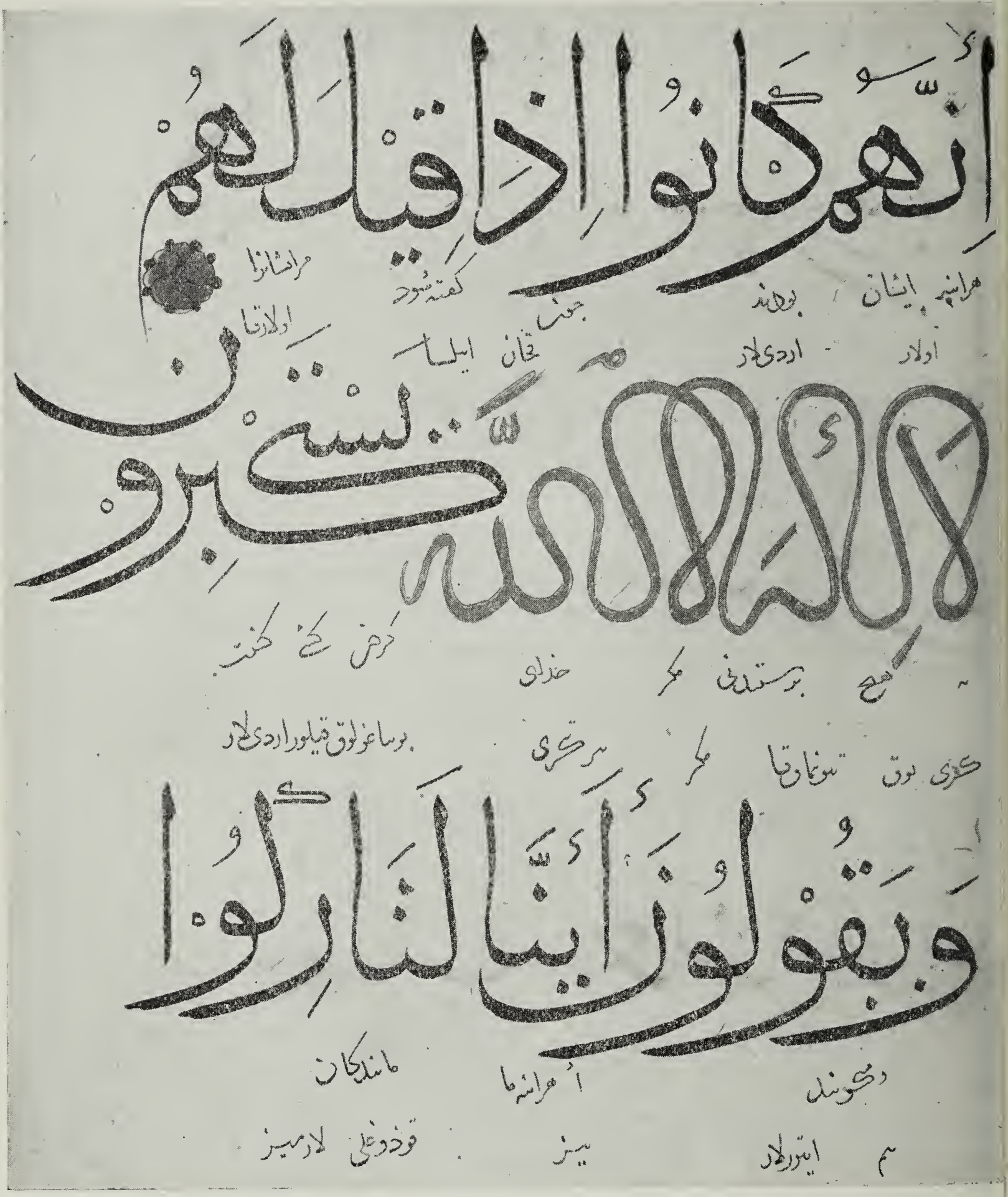

31. ḲU'RĀN (XXXVII. 34-35). ARABIC TEXT WITH PERSIAN AND OLD TURḲI TRANSLATIONS (XIVth-XVth CENT.)

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Printed Books preserved at Haigh Hall," which was issued for private circulation in 1910, fills four folio volumes, consisting of nearly five thousand printed pages. It was dedicated by the late Earl : " to the memory of my Father, my best and wisest of friends : and also to my son Lord Balcarres, to whom it is my joy to have been able to transmit the love of the ' Bibliotheca Lindesiana '."

Since the advent of the Crawford manuscripts every effort has been employed to develop and enrich the collection along lines which already have produced such excellent results in the stimulation of research. As evidence of the success which has attended these efforts it needs only to be stated, that at the present time the collection numbers upwards of ten thousand manuscripts, illustrating in a very complete manner, not only the history of writing and illumination, but also the history of the materials and methods which have been employed from the earliest times for the preservation and transmission of knowledge from one age to another. By this means students in many departments of research have had placed at their disposal original sources of great interest and importance.

Many of the manuscripts are of world-wide fame, and are well known to scholars, who have always had ready access to them. It may happen, however, that some of the readers of these notes have but a vague idea of the importance of the collection, and for that reason we venture to indicate something of its range and character.

EASTERN MANUSCRIPTS.

On the Oriental side, amongst the languages represented are the following : Amharic or Abyssinian, Armenian, Ethiopic, Sanskrit, Pali, Panjabi, Hindustani, Marathi, Parsi, Pehlevi, Burmese, Canarese, Sinhalese, Tamil, Chinese, Japanese, Malay, Javanese, Achinese, Mongolian, Balinese, Tibetan, Mo-so, Batak, Bugi, Kawi, Madurese, Makassar, and Mexican.

ARABIC, PERSIAN AND TURKISH MANUSCRIPTS.

Of more general interest is the collection of Arabic, Persian and Turkish manuscripts, by reason of the close historic, literary, scientific and religious intercourse between the West and the Near East. The manuscripts in these three languages number more than two thousand, and their contents extend to all branches of science and literature.

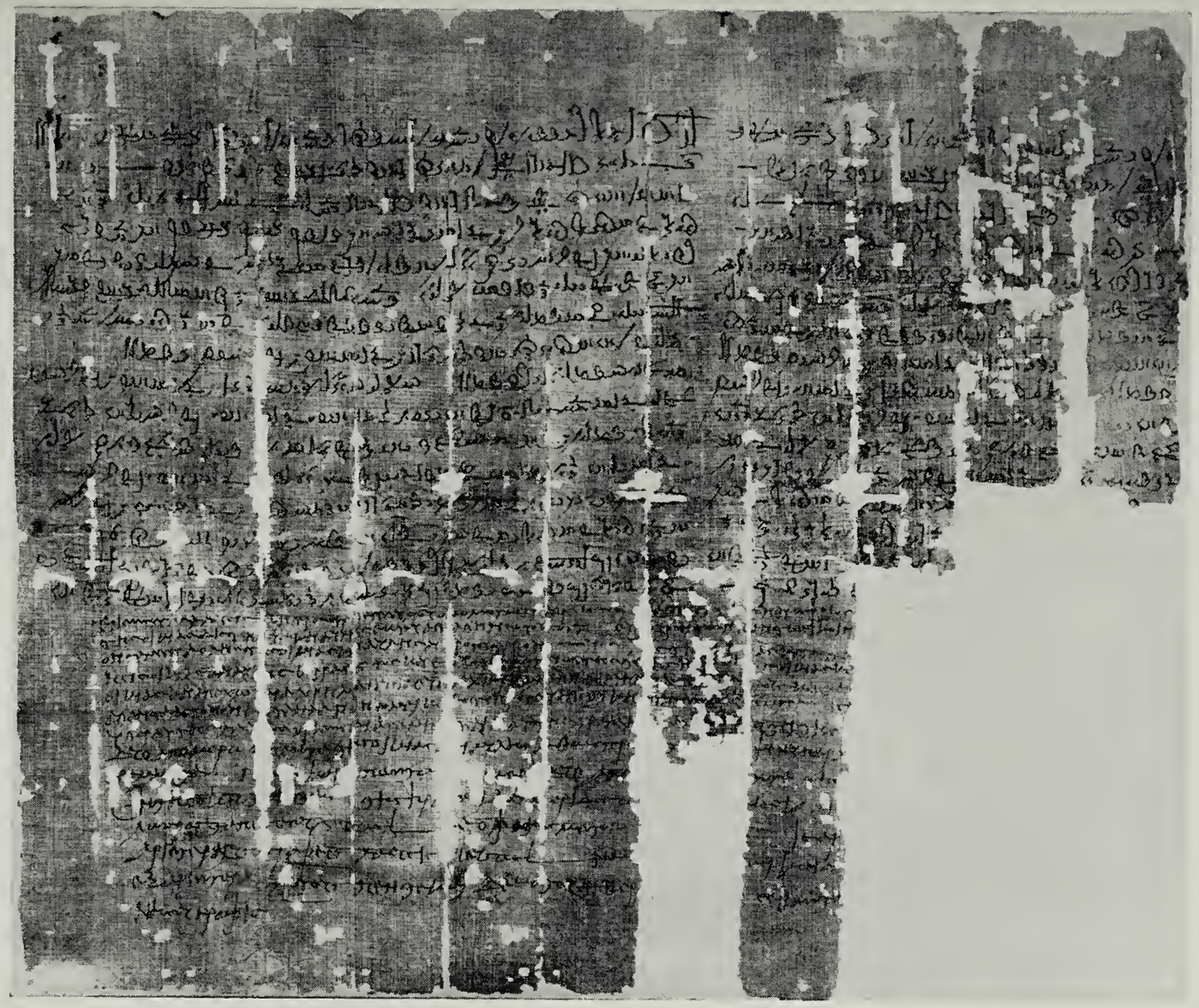
Special interest has been shown by those who were responsible for the building up of the collection, in the matter of Eastern art. Indeed,

there are examples which seem to surpass in beauty anything known in other public libraries, including State museums. In this category, we include books written from beginning to end in letters of gold, of which there are three, and books executed with gold and coloured patterns of exquisite design and workmanship. Side by side with these, is a manuscript of the "Ḳur'ān" which, apart from its beautiful ornaments, on which a first-rate artist has lavished his skill, is probably the largest and heaviest manuscript in existence. On the other hand, there are complete "Ḳur'āns," doubtless used as amulets for some princely warrior, written on a single sheet of paper, which when rolled up does not measure more than sixteen millimetres. There is also a Persian "Shāhnāmah" of Firdausi, which for the beauty of its designs and paintings can scarcely be surpassed.

In point of age, there are manuscripts of the second half of the eighth century, probably the earliest date to which any Ḳur'ānic manuscript can safely be ascribed. There are also dated Arabic, Persian, and Turkish manuscripts, which, in point of number and importance, compare favourably with those found in any other library, even including the British Museum.

In the sphere of the importance of its contents the collection exhibits many texts, not only rare and unedited, but absolutely unique. In 1922, Dr. Mingana contributed an article to the "BULLETIN" (vol. 2, pp. 240-250) in which he briefly described more than sixty unique texts in the domain of Theology alone, and the list might be extended with equal success to all the other branches of science and literature.

We cannot do more than refer very briefly to one or two works of outstanding importance. The first is an absolutely unrecorded and semi-official Apology of Islam, written at the Court of the 'Abassid Caliph Mutawakkil (A.D. 847-861) by 'Ali Ṭabari. Apart from its intrinsic value the book is the most ancient controversial work on Islam. The manuscript has lately been edited and translated for the Governors of the Library by Dr. Mingana, and issued amongst the library publications. There are also two historical works of permanent value, one of which is contained in a manuscript exhibiting the most ancient text of Ya 'Ḳubi's General History, and the other is a unique history of Arabia written by an Arab King of that country, the seventh Sultan of the Rasūli dynasty : Ismā'īl b. 'Abbas (A.D. 1376-1400).



32. PAPYRUS ROLL. A.D. 29
Demotic and Greek

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33. TWO PAGES OF "THE ODES AND PSALMS OF SOLOMON," XXXVIII. 8-21—XXXIX. 1-2

In the domain of Oriental papyrology we may state that the library contains in point of number and of importance probably the largest collection of Arabic papyri in the country.

Amongst the papyrus rolls and fragments are examples of the "Book of the Dead" both in Hieroglyphic and Hieratic, and large and important collections of Demotic, Coptic, Arabic, and Greek documents. PAPYRUS ROLLS, ETC.

The "Catalogue of the Demotic Papyri" (in three quarto volumes), probably the most interesting collection of documents in that script at present extant, was published in 1910, after about ten years of persistent labour on the part of the compiler Dr. F. Ll. Griffith, Professor of Egyptology in the University of Oxford. The decipherment and description of the Greek collection was undertaken by the two well-known scholars Drs. Grenfell and Hunt, who, in collaboration with other scholars, have already issued two volumes; the first, dealing with the literary portion, made its appearance in 1911, the second, dealing with the non-literary documents of the Roman and Ptolemaic periods, in 1915. The concluding volume, which has yet to appear, will treat of similar documents of the Byzantine period. The "Catalogue of the Coptic Papyri and Codices," ranging from the sixth to the sixteenth century, was compiled by Mr. W. E. Crum, and issued in 1910. The Arabic papyri, of which there is a considerable collection, are being dealt with by Professor Margoliouth.

There are several very fine Gospel-books in the collection of Greek codices, but the most important member of the group is a considerable fragment of the "Odyssey," possibly of the later decades of the third century of the present era, which consequently takes rank amongst the earliest examples of vellum books which have come down to us. The text of this codex was published *in extenso* in the first volume of the "Catalogue of Greek Papyri," along with the papyrus documents with which its date and Egyptian provenance naturally associates it.

Although in point of numbers the collection of Syriac manuscripts is inferior to that found in some other public libraries, yet it contains works which are worthy of remark. In point of age the oldest, and probably the most important, is a manuscript of the New Testament Peshitta dating from the middle of the sixth century. SYRIAC MANUSCRIPTS.

Another manuscript exhibits the oldest text of the "Apocalypse," as embodied with the other sacred books of the New Testament. A third manuscript, only lately acquired, probably contains the oldest text of the Heraclean Version. In point of importance we have the unique and now famous manuscript of the "Odes of Solomon," which has excited such world-wide interest since its discovery in 1909, that quite a library of literature has grown up around it. A facsimile edition of the text, followed by a new translation in English versicles, accompanied by an exhaustive introduction by Dr. Rendel Harris and his co-editor Dr. Mingana, has been published by the Governors of the Library. There is another unique treatise written by an eye-witness, on the first landing of the Portuguese in India; and a number of other historical and theological works well worthy of notice. A summary list of this collection is in preparation by Dr. Mingana, and will be printed shortly.

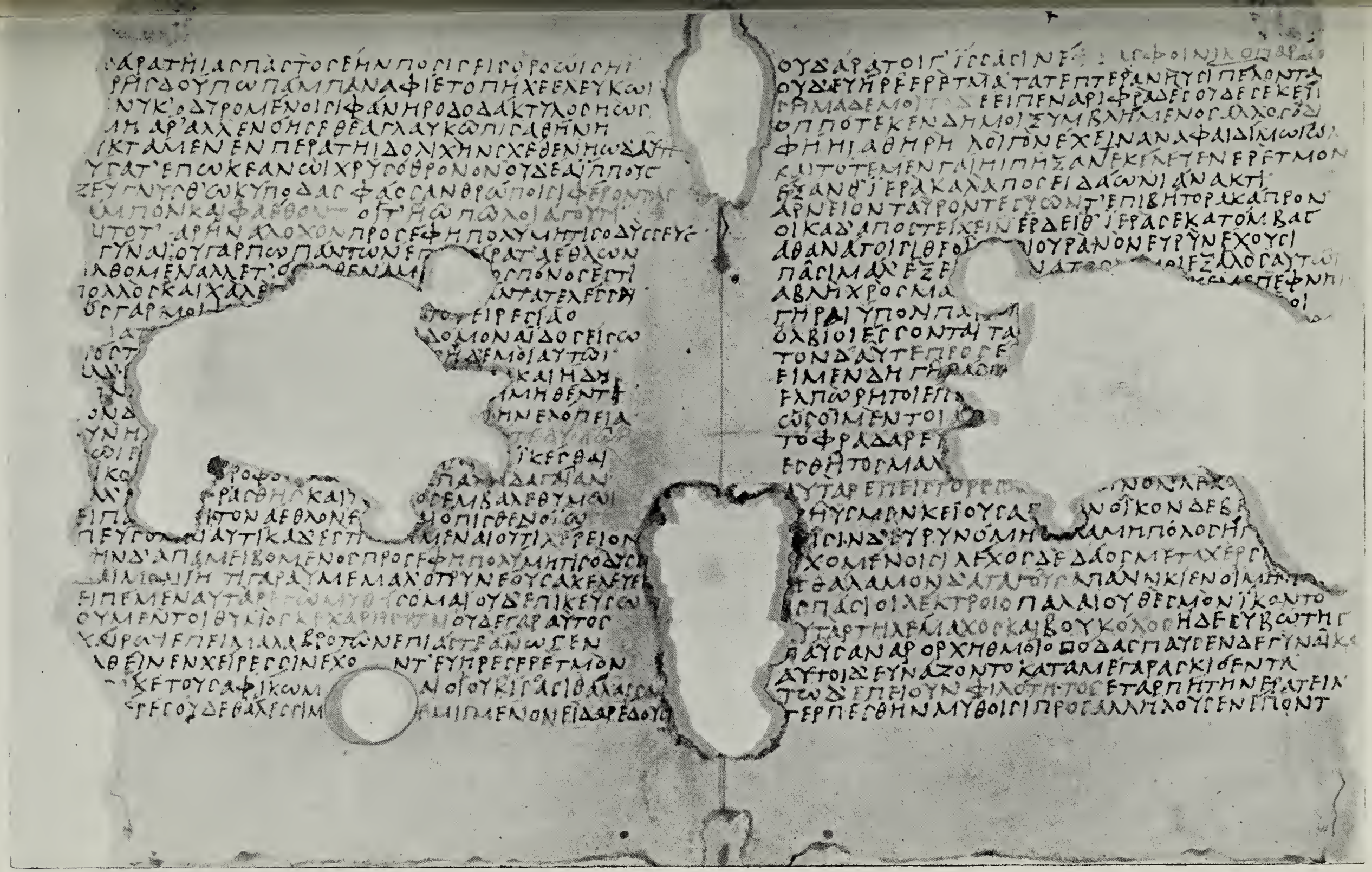
HEBREW ROLLS, ETC.

The Hebrew collection comprises a number of fine antelope, goat, calf-skin, and vellum Rolls of the Law, and of the Megilloth, several illuminated codices of the Haggadah, and a number of liturgical texts. In Samaritan there is a remarkable group of Biblical and liturgical codices, including an interesting vellum copy of the "Pentateuch" written A.D. 1211.

PALI MANUSCRIPTS.

Amongst recent accessions to the Oriental side of the collection is a group of more than a hundred palm-leaf manuscripts of the Buddhist scriptures in Sinhalese, Burmese, and Tibetan, for the most part from the library of the late Professor Rhys-Davids, many of which are of exquisite workmanship, written in large black characters on unusually broad leaves, or metal, thickly lacquered in gold. The texts of several of this group are believed to be inedited. The collection also contains a small group of unknown works in Bali character, from the Bali Island, beyond Java. These manuscripts are the fruits of thirty years of assiduous collecting by a scholar who was in constant intercourse with other scholars in various parts of the Far East, who alone could have assisted him in getting together such a remarkable collection.

Another group of considerable importance, on account of their extreme rarity, consists of about a hundred pieces of undetermined



34. TWO PAGES OF THE EARLIEST VELLUM CODEX OF "THE ODYSSEY"
About 290 A.D.

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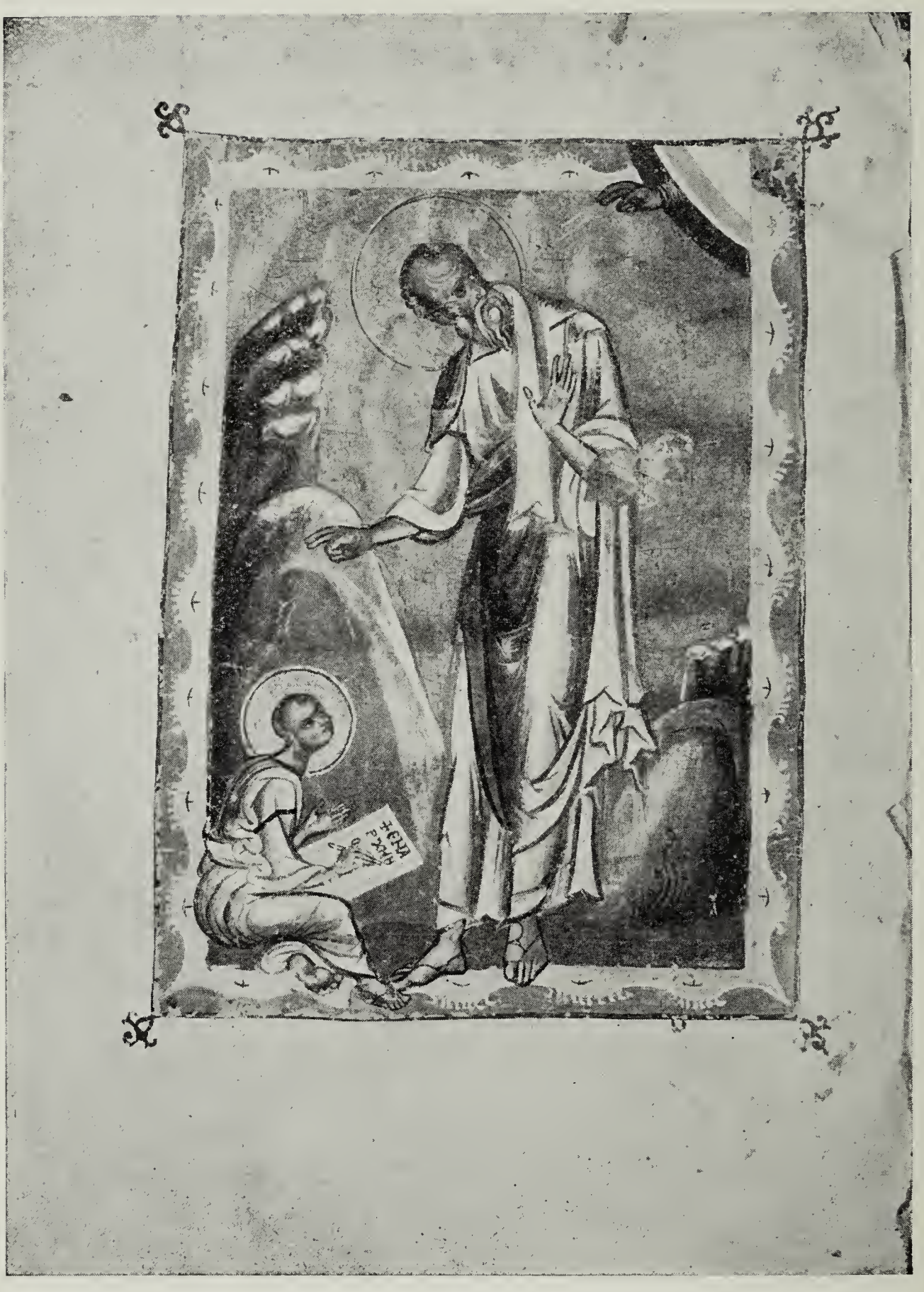

35. ST. JOHN FROM A "GREEK GOSPELS"
Byzantine MS. 11th Cent.

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antiquity, in the language of the Mo-so people, which are written in picture characters on a thick Oriental paper of uneven texture, apparently brown with age. The manuscripts are mostly oblong in shape, measuring about three inches in height by ten inches in width. The Mo-so people are a non-Chinese race scattered through Southern China, but their stronghold, and the seat of their traditions, is the prefecture of Li-Kiang-fu called, in Tibetan "Sa-dam," and in Mo-so "Ye-gu," which is in the north-west of Yun-nan. Travellers from the days of Marco Polo have made reference to them, but until recent years no attempt has been made to deal with their history and language, probably because few scholars have penetrated to the remote region of their habitat. The first scientific monograph upon the subject was read before the Paris Académie des Inscription in 1908, by M. Cordier. In 1913 another scholar, M. J. Bacot, after a residence of several months in the Mo-so country, published a study of the ethnography, religion, language, and writing of the people, in which he was assisted by M. E. Chavannes, who was responsible for a translation and study of the texts, dealing with the genealogy of the King of Mo-so, who traces his descent to a line of kings that go back as far as the year 618.

MO-SO MSS.

The spoken Mo-so language differs from the written language, and M. Bacot tells us that many of the characters which are ideographic, are very obscure. It is for that reason we attach considerable importance to an excellent key to one of the manuscripts, which Mr. Forrest, who secured these interesting documents for us in the remote country of their origin, was fortunately able to obtain through the services of a Chinese scholar, who was familiar with the people and their language, and also to another key in the shape of a Tibetan translation which is written over each pictograph on a number of the leaves of one of the manuscripts.

Here is excellent material for research, and we are hoping that some young scholar will undertake the preparation of these texts for publication. It is not unlikely that they will furnish new evidence as to the religious rites and ceremonies of these people, about whom so little is known. Their religion proper appears to be the cult of Heaven, which embraces a supreme being, endowed with infinite attributes, providence and justice. They have their holy city at Bedjre, a shrine to which every priest or sorcerer is expected to make at least

one pilgrimage during his lifetime. Their temples, if they may be so described, are enclosed spaces, or clearings in the forest, of which the only roof is the canopy of heaven. These enclosures are entered once a year, when sacrifices are offered upon the stone altar, which is erected in the centre.

SUMERIAN AND BABYLONIAN TABLETS.

Yet another group of interesting documents has been added to the collection during the last few years, consisting of more than a thousand Sumerian, Babylonian, and Assyrian tablets, and cylinders of various shapes, on stone and clay, which range in date from 3000 to 600 B.C. These were acquired for the library with the help and guidance of Professor H. W. Hogg, Canon C. H. W. Johns, and the Rev. C. L. Bedale, three scholars who made brave attempts to revive the study of Assyriology in this country, and had to some extent succeeded when death intervened to rob us of the services of each of these scholars in rapid succession. Included in the collection are a number of letters of the time of Ḥammurabi (about 2000 B.C.), about six hundred small tablets of memoranda or accounts relating to the expenditure and receipts of the stewards and other officers entrusted with the administration of the estates belonging to such temples as Drehem and Umma (about 2400 B.C.). The ancient Babylonian temples were organized much on the same lines as the monasteries and religious houses of our Middle Ages. These memoranda were periodically entered up on a larger tablet, which may be regarded as a ledger, examples of which are also to be found in the collection. There are several cylinders of the time of Nebuchadrezzar, with proclamations, and dedication tablets by that great ruler.

A small group of fifty-eight of the tablets from Umma were transliterated and translated by the late Mr. Bedale, and published with facsimiles, in 1901-5, as one of the library publications. The whole collection of six hundred temple records have since been read by a young scholar of great promise, the Rev. T. Fish, a product of St. Bede's College, Manchester, who studied under Professor Deimel; and as a result of his investigations he has selected nine tablets from Drehem, which are of more than usual interest for the study of Sumerian, and his description of them appeared in the latest issue of the "BULLETIN." It is hoped that it may be possible for Mr. Fish to devote his energies to the revival of Assyriology in Manchester.

36. THE OBVERSE OF A SUMERIAN TABLET FROM THE TEMPLE OF DREHEM.

Circa 2400 B.C.

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CHINESE AND JAPANESE COLLECTIONS.

The Chinese and Japanese books properly occupy a place between the manuscripts and the printed books, for whilst many of them have been produced by hand, the bulk have been printed xylographically, that is by means of engraved slabs of wood, as distinguished from movable metal types. This method of multiplying texts as well as pictures preceded the typographical method, both in the East and in the West, and may be described as the connecting link between the manuscript and the type-printed book. They have been dealt with here because they formed part of the Crawford collection.

The Chinese section is of considerable extent, the number of pên or native volumes being about eight thousand. It formed part of the design of the 25th Earl of Crawford, already referred to, that the "Bibliotheca Lindesiana" should include the best and most valuable books, which may be regarded as the landmarks of thought and progress in all cultivated languages, Eastern as well as Western. With this object in view he formed with great care this collection, which was the Chinese division of his library, and it needs but a brief examination of the catalogue to discover how successful he was in procuring many of the finest editions of the books in the language.

The foundation of the collection was laid by the purchase *en bloc* of the valuable Chinese library, belonging to Piêrre Léopold Van Alstein, which was sold at Ghent in 1863. A critical examination of the books so acquired, revealed a good many duplicates and imperfections, which, for the most part, were promptly disposed of. In order to supplement the Van Alstein collection Lord Crawford made purchases of works of value, from the library of Pautier, and in many other directions. Not content with these operations in the European market, he employed an agent in Pekin, to whom lists of *desiderata* were sent, and through this agency a number of rare works were acquired. The collection is remarkable, at the present time, for the trifling number of imperfect works which it contains considering its extent. Nearly all the books are either in excellent European bindings, or in the neat "tao" or native envelopes of cloth or silk. The general condition internally is also exceptionally good, and many of the works might be cited as very beautiful examples of xylography.

The Japanese collection numbers something like a thousand pên or native volumes, and grew up side by side with the Chinese collection

with which it is so closely allied. It probably contains more manuscripts than the former, and is remarkable for the number of illustrated volumes which it includes.

A collection of about fifteen hundred drawings and paintings of Chinese, Indian and Persian origin forms an appendix to the Oriental section of the Manuscripts. CHINESE AND INDIAN PAINTINGS.

The Chinese examples number about a thousand, the majority of which are from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They are beautifully executed on silk, rice-paper, leaves, talc, and ordinary paper, covering a very wide range of subjects.

One collection of a hundred and fifty paintings, of large oblong folio size, bound in three volumes, unfolds the history of China from prehistoric times. Another collection of three hundred paintings is devoted to the mythology and folk-lore of China. There are eighty-six pictures representing the various grades of mandarins, court officials, and other classes ; twenty-four views of the Imperial Palace at Pekin, and other series dealing with the architecture of palaces, houses, and pagodas, also with furniture. Three large folio volumes are filled with paintings of birds, insects, reptiles, and flowers local to China. Other series deal with fish, shells, junks, and other sailing craft. The trades, industries, and manufactures are dealt with in a most instructive manner. There are series of drawings dealing with the domestic trades, with the cultivation of rice, tea, cotton, silk, and china ware. Punishments are also realistically depicted. There is also a fine collection of drawings of the musical instruments of the Chinese, one of which shows the arrangement of a Chinese concert.

The Indian paintings number about five hundred, many of which are the work of painters at the courts of the Mogul emperors, and are singularly fine.

The magnificence and the achievements, both in peace and war, of many of these Oriental potentates, are depicted with great delicacy and richness of colour, in the portraits, hunting, domestic and battle scenes which form the subjects of so many of the paintings.

Rembrandt not only obtained hints for design from such paintings, which came in his way probably through the Director of the Dutch East Indies, whose portrait he painted, but was so directly influenced by them that some of his drawings are said to be direct though free copies from such examples.

37. INDIAN PAINTING. PORTRAIT OF THE MOGUL EMPEROR JAHANGAR.
17th Cent.

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38. INDIAN MOGUL PAINTING. PORTRAIT OF A FAMOUS MULLAH
17th Cent.

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In addition to the portraits of emperors, princes, mullahs, and other subjects already referred to, there are series of paintings dealing with the various castes in India, including the lower and working castes according to their trades.

The drawings are mostly bound together in an indiscriminate fashion, so that the works of single artists or of periods cannot be well grouped together. Facing each of the paintings in most of the albums are richly ornamented specimens of calligraphy.

WESTERN MANUSCRIPTS.

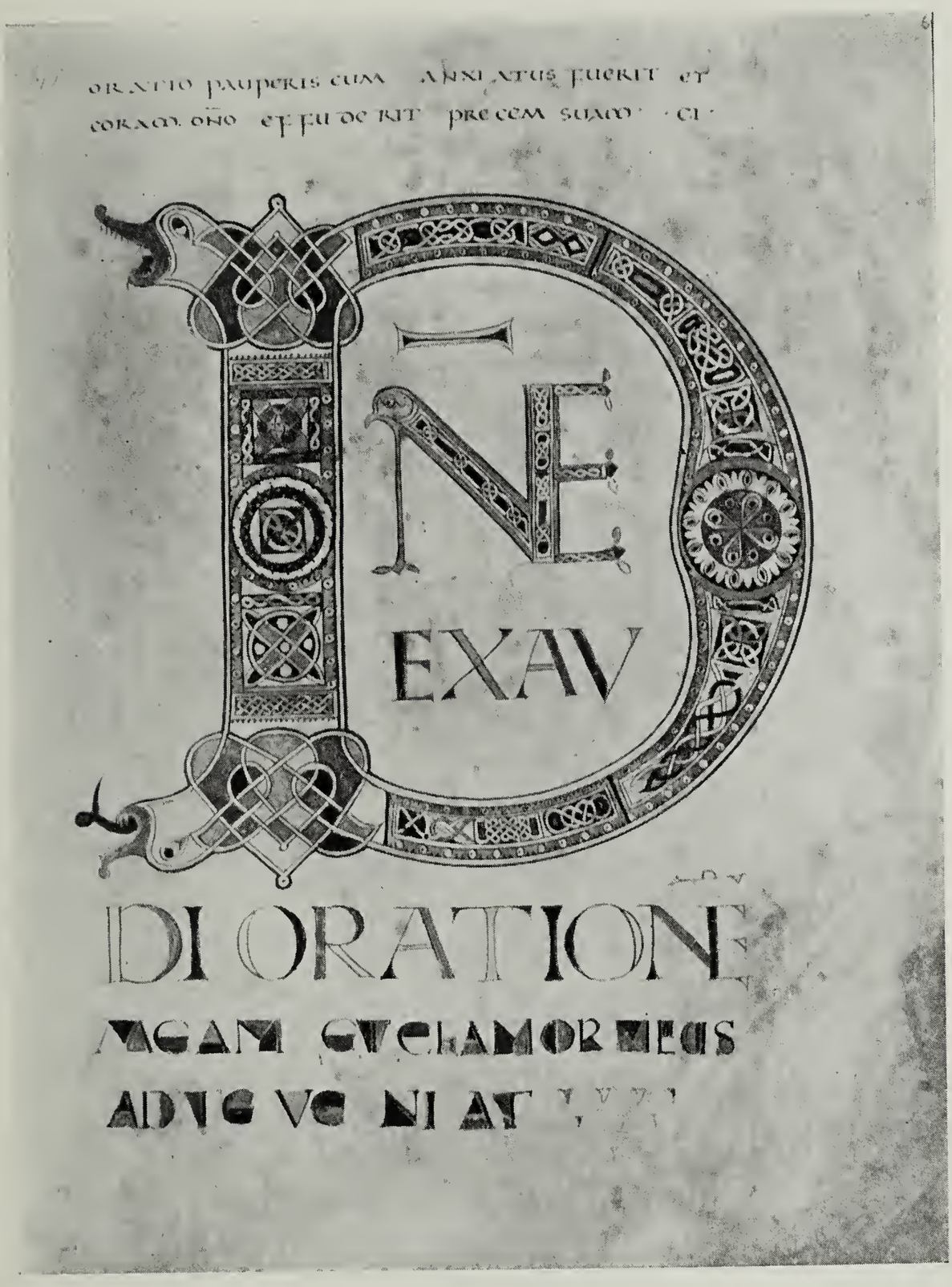
When we turn to the Western manuscripts and attempt to convey some idea of the richness of the collection, the very wealth of material at our disposal constitutes a difficulty. Of Latin manuscripts, whether produced in England, Flanders, France, Germany, Italy or Spain, there are some hundreds, including examples of first class quality of the art and calligraphy of the great mediæval writing schools of Europe, which range in point of date from the sixth to the nineteenth century. The subjects represented include : biblical, liturgical, and patristic texts, hagiography, theology, classics, chronicles, history, charters, papal bulls, pedigrees, heraldry, law, science, alchemy, etc.

One of the most important texts, though quite unadorned, is a manuscript of the letters and minor works of St. Cyprian, written in pre-Caroline minuscules, by several hands, in the eighth century. It is one of the oldest known manuscripts of St. Cyprian, and was at one time in the possession of the Abbey of Murbach, in Alsace. The earliest manuscript in this section is known as the "Ravenna Roll," which is a legal instrument of donation to the church at Ravenna, written on papyrus at Ravenna, about 580-600. One of the Greek witnesses has written his testimony in Latin, but in Greek characters, and by so doing has added something to our knowledge of old Latin pronunciation. The "Exultet Roll" or "Benedictio Ceri," is a long roll on vellum written in the tenth century, probably at the monastery of Monte-Cassino. It consists of the text of the liturgical rite of the blessing of the Paschal candle, which begins with "Exultet," hence the name given to the roll, and is furnished with neumes throughout, and illuminations of great interest representing the Passion and the Resurrection.

Of other manuscripts produced at the famous writing schools, one is a "Psalter" written in the early ninth century, at Trier, in fine clear

Carolingian minuscules, embellished with magnificent examples of the Continental-Celtic style of decoration, in which no gold is used, but of which the interlacings of the Celtic School are a feature. In the margin of the Calendar for May, a note has been inserted, apparently coeval with the text, recording how Ada, sister of Charlemagne, and daughter of King Pepin, left much property to the Abbey of Maximin at Trier, and on her decease was buried there; also that she bequeathed to the Abbey a copy of the Gospels, written with gold, and decorated with gold. This volume is still preserved at Trier, but in the Stadtbibliothek. Another is a "Gospels" written and illuminated for the Emperor Otto, about 970, probably at Cologne, although it has been suggested that certain features point to St. Gall. It is an exquisite example of minuscule writing and illumination, and has medallion portraits of the Emperor on one of the illuminated pages. There are two "Gospel Books" written in the monastery of St. Gall, in the ninth or tenth century, showing Celtic influence in the initals; one of which belonged formerly to the church of St. Peter, Liège; a "Book of Homilies," probably written at Tours, in the eighth or ninth century, which belonged at one time to the Abbey of Luxeuil; a "Lectionary," with quaint illuminations, written by Ruopertus, Abbot of Prüm, a monastery on the Moselle, where he ruled from 1036 to 1063; a "Bible" in two volumes, in a twelfth-century small, but beautiful hand, which is said to have come from the Cistercian monastery of Altenburg, between Cologne and Dusseldorf. In a "Gospel Book" of the ninth century, there is a note stating that the codex was used by St. Ancharius (ob. 865), and was afterwards preserved as a relic in the church of Bremen.

Of Latin manuscripts of English origin, there are several which call for notice: one is a very important pre-reformation "Missal" of the Sarum use, probably the oldest known manuscript of that service, written about 1260, with six full page illuminations of characteristic English work, which are full of vigour. Another is a copy of the "Epistolae Pauli," in an eleventh or twelfth-century hand, written at Christ Church, Canterbury. The "Leges Angliae" calls for special mention since it contains the earliest known copies of the charters granted to London by Henry I. and Henry II. respectively. The volume, in a beautiful hand, must have been written within a few years of the granting of Henry II.'s charter (1155-1161); of other



39. A PAGE OF THE TRIER "PSALTER"
German MS. 9th Cent.

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40. A PAGE OF THE EMPEROR OTTO'S "GOSPEL BOOK"
German MS. 10th Cent.

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known copies of this charter the earliest cannot be less than a century later in date, and is defective. Then there is a little "Book of Hours" written for King Henry VII., by John Islip, Abbot of Westminster, and builder of the Chantry Chapel of Henry VII., which bears upon the illuminated borders of several of its pages, the rebus of the abbot's name in the form of an eye and a slip of a tree, the same rebus which is found in the carvings of the chapel. There are a number of cartularies, the most important being that of the Benedictine Monastery of St. Mary's, York, in two volumes, written in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; that of the Cistercian Abbey of Melsa, or Meaux, in the handwriting of the nineteenth abbot, Thomas Burton (1396-1399), is also of great interest, furnishing, as it does, authority for English history during the reigns of the Edwards, whilst tracing the history of the abbey from its foundation in 1150 to the year 1406. Other noteworthy volumes are the thirteenth-century cartulary of the Cistercian Abbey of Warden, in Bedfordshire, which was furnished with monks from the abbey of Rievaulx; the cartulary of the Manor of Tolethorpe, Rutland, in the form of a roll; the Chronicle of Wigmore; and a volume of the cartulary of Fountains Abbey; Wardrobe Books of Edward I., Edward II., Queen Philippa of Hainault, Queen Joan of Navarre, and Queen Catherine of Aragon; and a thirteenth-century manuscript of the famous Itinerary of Richard I. to the Holy Land.

Of Latin manuscripts of French origin the most important and the most beautiful is a "Psalter," valuable alike for its exquisite illuminated capitals, its five pages of miniatures, its calendar, and for its historical associations. It was written in Paris, about 1260, probably by the same person who executed the manuscript given by St. Louis to the Sainte Chapelle. On a blank leaf at the commencement of the volume, in a very delicate hand is written "Royne Jahanne," the autograph of Joan of Navarre, the second Queen Consort of Henry IV. of England, into whose possession the volume must have passed a century and a half after its production. Léopold Delisle has described the volume as the finest known example of the best period of French art. An "Apocalypse," executed in the early part of the fourteenth century in the North of France, consists of a series of ninety-six pictures, on forty-eight pages of vellum, of masterly execution, in most delicate colours, which unfold in a most realistic way the story of the Apocalypse. A most perfect specimen of the small Bibles of the thirteenth century, is

in the collection. It is decorated with about a hundred historiated capitals, was probably written in Picardy, and belonged at one time to the Abbey of St. Acheul, and later to the Duchesse de Berry. Another very beautiful book is the "Book of Hours" said to have been written for King Charles VII. of France, by the same hand that executed the famous "Bedford Missal," in the early part of the fifteenth century. Every page is surrounded by a most elaborate lace-like border, and it is further enriched by a large number of exquisite miniatures. Mention should also be made of a "Psalterium et Horæ" of the early part of the fourteenth century, with highly decorated miniatures and historiated capitals, probably executed for a female member of the Order of St. Dominic. In 1586 it was presented to William Duke of Cleves, Berg, and Juliers, and his son John William. On the fly-leaf is the signature of Philip William, Count Palatine of the Rhine. Also a "Book of Hours" of the end of the fifteenth or the beginning of the sixteenth century, probably illuminated in the South of France by an artist of the school of Jean Foucquet, for Jacques Galliot de Gourdon de Genouillac, Grand-Ecuyer de France, and Grand-Maître d'Artillerie under Francis I. It is an exceedingly fine example of the art of the period to which it belongs, and is in remarkable preservation. Of great importance historically are: a treasury account book of King Charles VI. of France, and a fourteenth century chronicle of the Dukes of Normandy, and Kings of England.

Of the Latin manuscripts of Italian origin there are two of exceptional interest. The first consists of the "Postilla" of Nicholas de Lyra in three large folio volumes, written by Ugolino Marini Gibertuzzi of Sarnano, by order of Pandalfo di Malatesta, and finished in the Franciscan convent at Pesaro, in April, 1402. It is full of borders and miniatures, made historically interesting by the portraits of members of the Gonzaga and Malatesta families, which have been introduced into them. A manuscript like this, perfect in condition and certain in date and origin, is a most important monument of Italian art. More splendid even than the Malatesta manuscript, but belonging to an epoch when art had become too self-conscious and conventional, is the "Colonna Missal," in six large folio volumes, by various hands, the earliest of which must have been executed about 1517, for the Cardinal Pompeo Colonna, and adorned with a number of full-page and other illuminations of great excellence. The tradition handed

41. A PAGE OF JOAN OF NAVARRE'S "PSALTER"
French MS. About 1260 A.D.

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Benigne fac(u) bona uoluntate tua syon:
(et) edificentur mur(i) ier(usa)lē:
Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustic(ie) oblationes
(et) holocausta: tunc imponent sup altare tuū
uitulos:

In malicia: qui
potens(et) in iniq(ui)-
tate: Tota die iniu-
riam cogitauit
lingua tua: sicut nouacula acuta fecisti dolū.
Dilexisti malicia(m) sup benignitate(m): iniq(ui)
tate(m) magis quam loqui equitate(m). ℣
Dilexisti omnia uba (con)fusionis: lingua dolosa.
Propterea deus destruet te in finem: euellet te.
(et) emigrabit te de tabernaculo tuo: (et) radi-
cem tuam de terra uiuentiu(m).
Uidebunt iusti (et) timebunt: (et) sup eum ri-
debunt: (et) dicent. ecce homo qui nō posuit

down in the family was that the large illuminations were the work of Raphael. The view held to-day is that Giulio Clovio is the artist of the best work, with Apollonio dei Buonfratelli as a second hand, followed by others.

Of Latin manuscripts of Spanish origin, the library is in possession of four of outstanding importance. The most interesting is a twelfth-century copy of the "Commentary of the Apocalypse," by an abbot of Valcavado, in Castile, known as "St. Beatus." It is a great folio volume, written in the North of Spain, decorated with one hundred and ten large miniatures, painted on grounds of deep and vivid colour, showing clearly the Moorish influence of the place of origin; it also contains a curious map of the world. The second is a massive copy of the "Moralia in Job" of St. Gregory, which is written in a clear, small, Visigothic hand, of the tenth century, by a scribe named Gomez. The volume contains a number of small decorative initials, mostly the work of one hand, of great charm and delicacy. The third is: "Cassiodorus super Psalmos," another massive folio, written in fine upright Visigothic minuscule of the tenth century, which belonged formerly to the monastery of St. Pedro de Cardena, and later came into the possession of the notorious Libri. The fourth is a "Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict" by Smaragdus, who was Abbot of St. Mihiel, in the diocese of Verdun, and died about 820. It was apparently written in the Abbey of Silos, by a scribe named John, and is in Visigothic minuscule of a peculiar form, in three different colours of ink, the body of the work being in black with the headings in red, and the text of the rule in green, of the first half of the tenth century.

Of manuscripts executed in the Netherlands there are a number ranging in date from the ninth to the fifteenth century. Several are of outstanding importance, but we must not do more than briefly refer to one or two. The first is a dainty little "Book of Hours," which tradition says belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots, upon two of the leaves of which are inscriptions said to have been written by her own hand, one of which reads: "*Mon Dieu confondez mes ennemys* M̃." There are two other "Books of Hours," of the fifteenth century, of the school of Hans Memling, one of which exhibits clearly the distinctive characteristics of the Flemish school of illumination, its richness of colour, its realism, and its typical borders consisting of a broad band of

colour or flat gold, forming a ground for the representation of flowers, fruits, butterflies, etc.; and a volume of "Preces et Officia Varia" executed at Bruges in 1487, and enriched with thirty miniatures and thirty-six borders, besides other decorations. The artist appears to have been Nicolas de Coutre, one of the Guild of Illuminators of Bruges.

The French manuscripts, though not numerous, are of great beauty and interest. Perhaps the most important is a "Bible en Images," or "Picture Bible," consisting of a series of forty-eight full page paintings, representing stories from the Books of Genesis and Exodus, resplendent on a background of burnished gold, and written in the South of France about the middle of the thirteenth century. There is a fine and important copy of "Lancelot du Lac," with seventy-two miniatures and numerous illuminated initials, written about 1300; an early fifteenth-century copy of the "Chroniques" of Jean de Courcy; and an illuminated manuscript of the "Chroniques de Saint Denys," in which one miniature depicts Edward I paying homage to Philip the Fair, of France, as his overlord for the Duchy of Aquitaine, in 1286. There is also a very beautiful manuscript of Guillaume de Guilleville's "Pélerinage de la Vie," written in a clear hand, in the fourteenth century, and enriched with 173 miniatures, which are illustrative of the poem, and display a wonderful fertility of invention, whilst they are valuable for the costume of the time and for the ways of life of the people. Another volume of almost equal interest is: "La Vie et Passion de Notre Seigneur Jésus Christ," written about 1350, and ornamented with twenty-six paintings of Our Lord's Passion, executed in grisaille, the aureoles only being depicted with gold. There are also two fine manuscripts of the "Roman de la Rose," of the fourteenth century. A miniature in one of the copies depicts Jean de Meung, the continuator, at work on his continuation.

Mention must also be made of a few of the most interesting of the English manuscripts. The finest is a copy of John Lydgate's "Siege of Troy," executed about 1420. It is a large folio volume, containing richly illuminated borders, and seventy miniatures, which furnish a mine of pictorial information on the social customs of the period in which it was produced. At the commencement of the volume is a picture of the author presenting his work to King Henry V, whilst at the end are the arms of William Carent (1344-1422), for whom the book

43. A PAGE OF KING CHARLES VII'S "BOOK OF HOURS'
French MS. About 1430 A.D.

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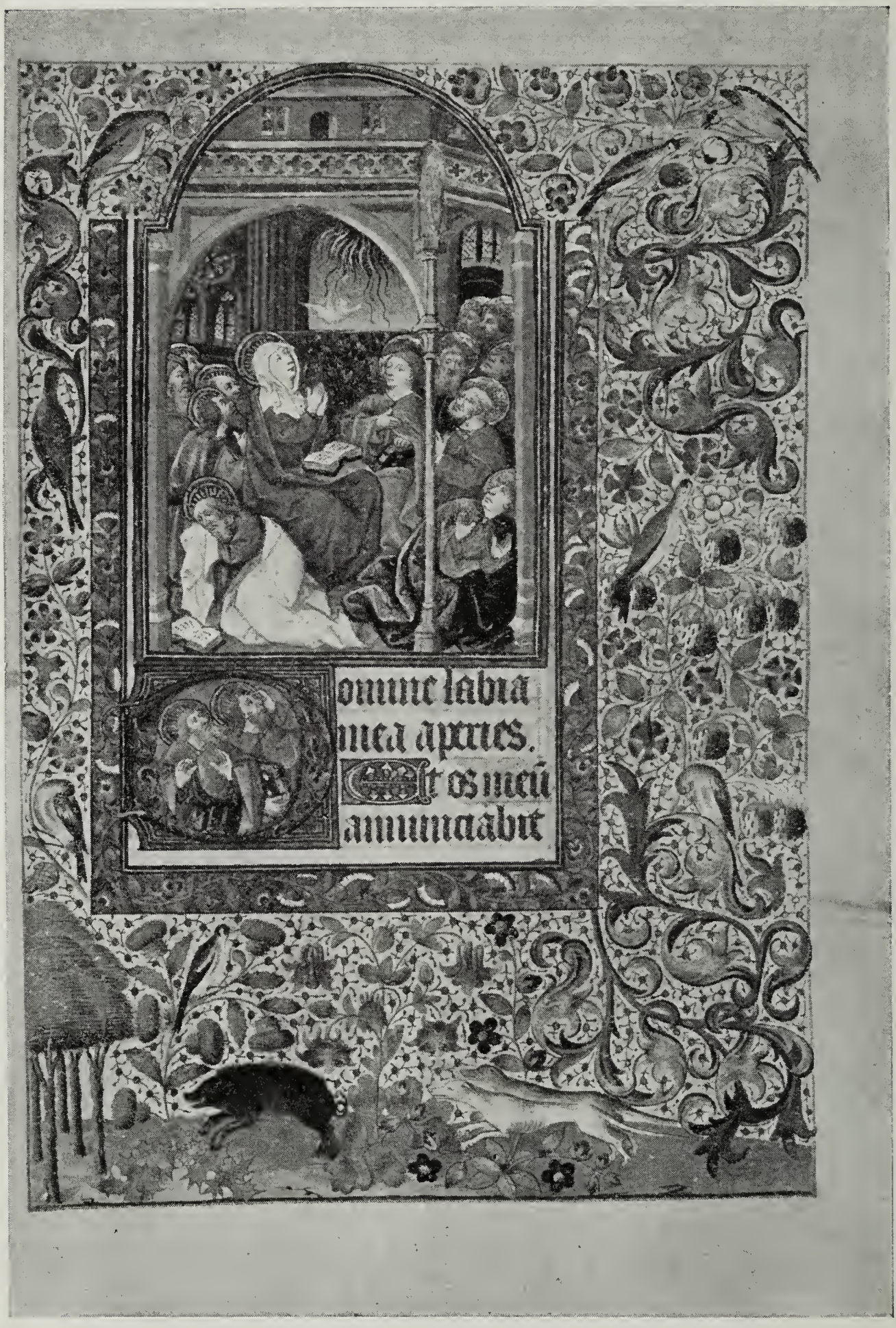

44. A PAGE OF KING CHARLES VII'S "BOOK OF HOURS'
French MS. About 1430 A.D.

45. A PAGE OF THE "BIBLE EN IMAGES"
French MS. Middle 13th Cent.

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46. A PAGE OF A "BOOK OF HOURS"
French MS. Late 15th Cent.

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was probably written. Another is the same author's translation of Boccaccio's "Falle of Princes," a plainer, but still a very important volume, executed about 1425, with borders and initial letters in gold and colours. There are a dozen manuscripts of the Wicliffite Bible, or parts of the Bible ranging from 1382 to 1450; four manuscripts of "The Prick of Conscience," of Richard Rolle, of the fourteenth to the fifteenth century; and "A Form of Cury" by the master cook of Richard the Second, containing 194 cookery receipts, written between 1380 and 1390. The "Yorkshire and North of England Armorial," known as the "Stacey Grimaldi Roll," is a vellum roll 3 m. long, executed about 1350, with the arms of sovereigns, nobles, and barons, emblazoned, and the name and description of each coat written above. It is one of the earliest known heraldic manuscripts. One of the Wicliffite manuscripts is of great interest on account of its historical associations. It is a copy of Purvey's revision of the Wiclif Gospels, written about 1410, and was presented to Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her progress through the city of London in January, 1558-1559, by Francis Newport, who, for the sake of his religion, had been compelled to fly from his country during the reign of Queen Mary. Prefixed to the volume is a long letter written by Newport to the Queen. The presentation is referred to by Holinshed, in his "Chronicle."

Amongst the Italian manuscripts are two or three which should not be passed over. The first is a fourteenth-century volume containing the "Rime" of Petrarca, and the "Canzoni" of Dante, which is regarded as one of the most important manuscripts of the two poets, written during the lifetime of Petrarch, or immediately after his death, for Lorenzo, the son of Carlo degli Strozzi, a member of one of the noblest families of Florence, by Paul the scribe. It has large initial letters, and three illuminated borders, containing portraits of the poets and their "innamoráte," executed in the finest style of Florentine art at that period, with the arms of the Strozzi emblazoned in the bottom compartment of the first two. There are three manuscripts of the "Divina Commedia" of Dante, of the fifteenth century, one of which is noteworthy as furnishing the date of execution (1416), and the name of the scribe: "Bartolomeus Landi de Landis," of whom nothing seems to be known. Another important manuscript, in a fine fifteenth-century hand, is the "Scala Paradisi" of San Giovanni Climaco. Yet

another contains the arms of the Judges in the Court of the Università dei Mercanti di Bologna, 1576-1632, of which there are 558 coats, besides a plan and view of Bologna, and many other paintings by Bernardino Sangiovani.

Amongst recent additions is also a palimpsest of an Icelandic manuscript of laws promulgated in Iceland from 1281 to 1541.

IRISH MANUSCRIPTS.

The Irish collection comprises one hundred and thirty-six volumes consisting, for the most port, of transcripts from famous manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy, and elsewhere, by such scholars as E. O'Curry, D. H. Kelly, Michael McDermott, and O. Donovan.

There are many volumes of the text of Fenian tales, accompanied by English translations; volumes of collectanea; texts of Irish poems in the handwriting of Michael McDermott; collections of annals, of genealogies, and one volume of original letters of O'Curry, and O. Donovan. The Irish text of Keating's "History of Ireland" is also included in the form of a folio volume, bearing the date of 1715.

The interest attaching to many of these transcripts is that they are of manuscripts which have since disappeared.

CHARTER ROOM.

It has been found necessary to establish a charter room in the library, in order to provide the necessary and suitable accommodation for the large and rapidly growing collection of charters, deeds, and similar documents, which are being acquired from time to time as opportunities occur. Among the collections recently acquired are a large number from the Sir Thomas Phillipps library, the Beaumont Charters, the Nicholas Papers, and a number of documents from the Medici Archives.

In addition to the collection belonging to the library, which begins to assume considerable dimensions, we have undertaken further responsibilities in this direction, since 1921, by accepting the custody of collections of similar documents.

The first collection to be entrusted to our care, on loan for an indefinite period for the use of students, was that belonging to Sir Harry Mainwaring, Bart, late of Peover Hall, Cheshire, which included many early charters, and other material relating to the county of Cheshire. The Mainwaring family had been seated at Peover ever

47. A PAGE OF A MANUSCRIPT "APOCALYPSE"
Northern French. 14th Cent.

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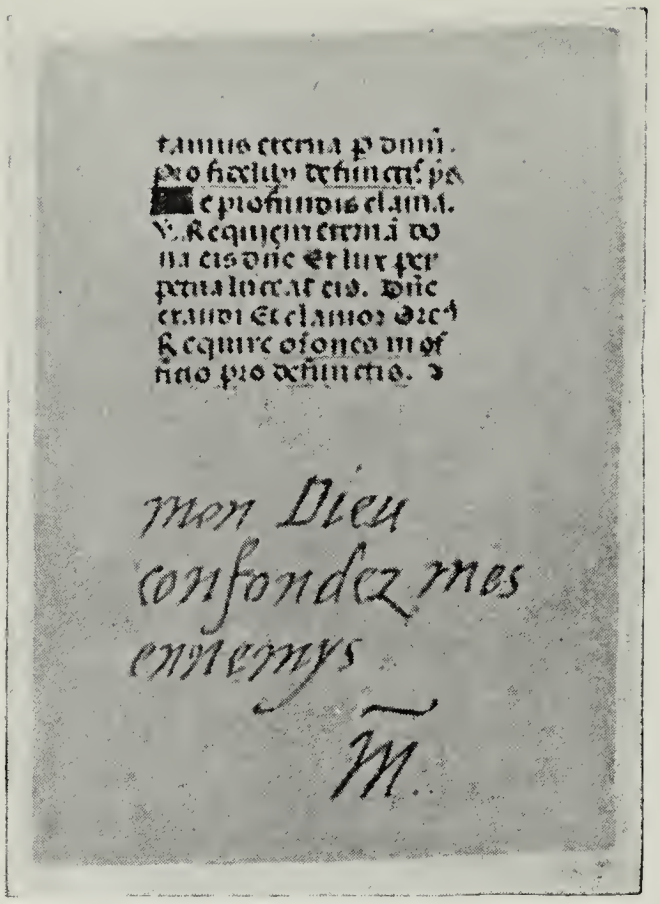
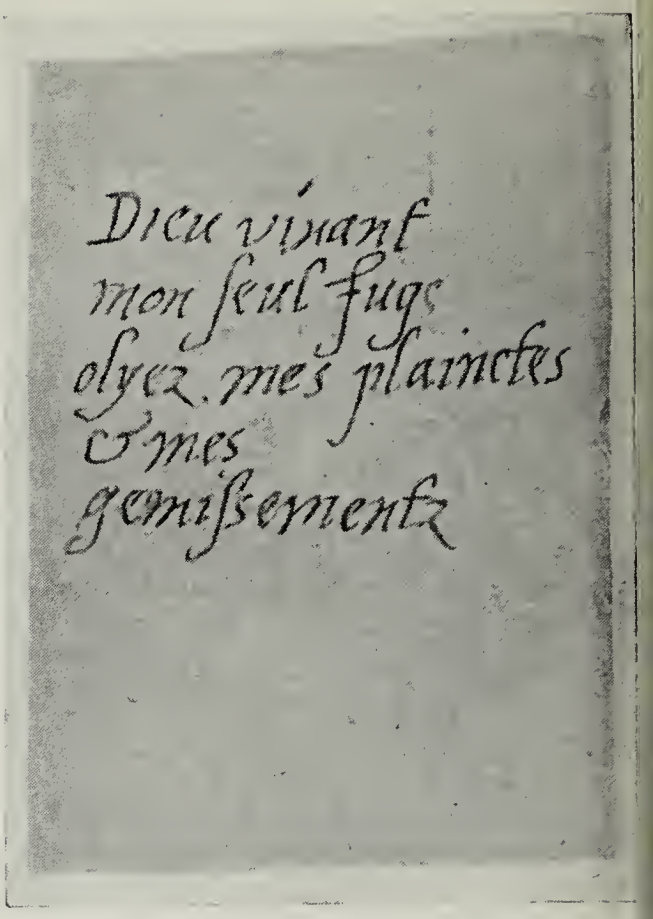


113 Recto.



124 Recto.

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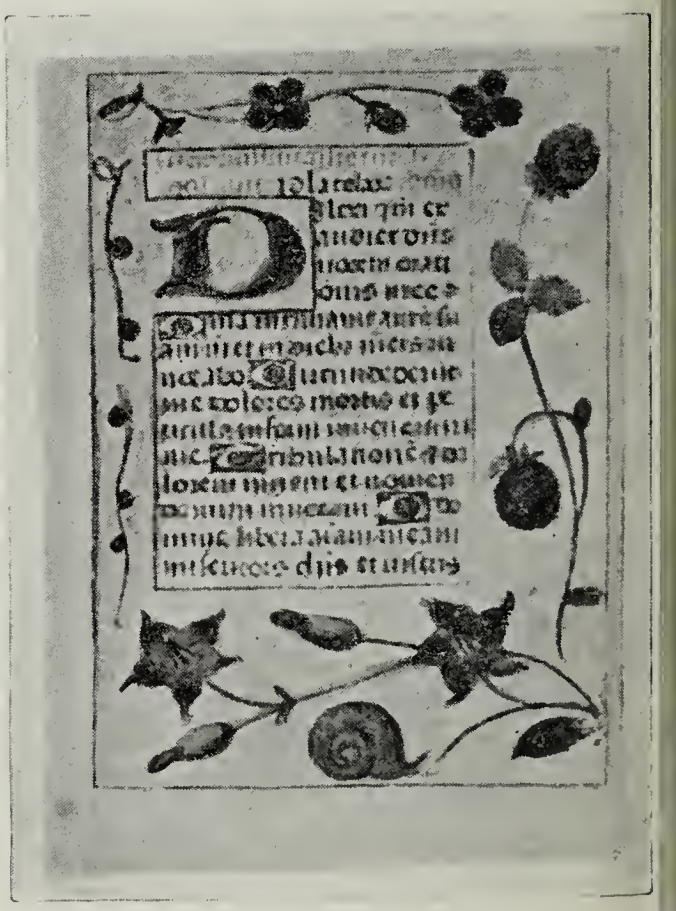

148 Recto.

48. FOUR PAGES OF A "BOOK OF HOURS" SAID TO HAVE BELONGED TO MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Flemish MS. 15th Century

[*To face page* 111

since the Conquest, and had the good fortune to possess state papers, diaries, household books, and literary papers of the seventeenth century, besides a vast quantity of deeds and evidences relating to their lands, which cannot fail to be of interest to students of the history of the period covered by them. Many of the Peover deeds are of the time of Edward III, whilst five hundred of them are earlier than the reign of Henry VIII, the earliest of all consisting of charters granted in the twelfth century by Earls of Chester.

Encouraged by the action of Sir Harry Mainwaring, we announced in the succeeding issue of the "BULLETIN," our willingness to undertake the safe custody, under similar conditions, of any other collections of manuscripts, especially those relating to the North of England, or in the possession of families connected with that area, which the owners were either unwilling or unable to dispose of, and for which they were no longer able to provide suitable housing accommodation. We ventured to point out that in these days, when so many estates are being broken up, and old family residences relinquished and their contents dispersed, there is a grave danger lest valuable documents of great historical interest, the importance of which may not have been realised, should be lost sight of, perhaps accidentally destroyed with the so-called lumber which so often accumulates in great houses, or be stored temporarily, for want of better accommodation, in unsuitable buildings where they are likely to suffer irreparable damage from damp and neglect. We also pointed out that there are in the hands of Lords of Manors, family solicitors, and others, quantities of court rolls, deeds, marriage settlements, indentures, and similar documents, now of little use for legal purposes, which are in great danger of destruction or dispersal.

These documents form part of the necessary material for the history of the district to which they refer and are invaluable to students of our social customs and institutions, as well as to the ever increasing number of scholars engaged in this description of historical investigation, and should be preserved and made accessible to such workers, under the customary safeguards.

In response to this appeal Colonel and Mrs. Ramsden-Jodrell, of Taxal, Cheshire, deposited in the library their interesting collection of manuscripts, relating to the Jodrell family and their estates. The Jodrells have been seated in Cheshire certainly since 1351, for the earliest recorded reference is to a member of the family who held

lands in the forest of Macclesfield in that year. These deeds, like those of the Mainwarings, throw a flood of light upon the social and economic history of the county to which they belong.

These collections have now been carefully arranged in chronological order, in specially made cases, within which each charter or document is enclosed in its own folder, and stored in the charter room. Hand-lists have also been prepared by Dr. Fawtier, and in part have been printed already, in which the arrangement is alphabetically under the name of the places to which they refer so that any student wishing to know what documents there are relating to a particular place or to a particular period, may readily obtain the information, either by reference to the list, or by having recourse in the library to the documents themselves, as the case may be.

We shall be glad to undertake the custody of further collections of similar documents, with a view of providing for their careful preservation, and of making them available for ready reference and study.

JEWELLED BOOK-COVERS.

Turning now from the manuscripts themselves to the jewelled covers with which some of them are adorned, and which impart to them a character, and a value, of a very special kind, we find that there are thirty examples. The extraordinary rarity of these metal and ivory bindings may be gauged by the fact that this collection, containing only thirty examples, yet ranks third among the collections of the world. By far the richest is that in the Bibliothèque Nationale, at Paris, which contains a large number of the books of this class, seized and saved from dispersion at the time of the Revolution. Next comes the Royal Library at Munich; and then comes the John Rylands collection. One example, perhaps the finest in the world, remained until a few years ago in English hands. It was the famous "Lindau Gospels," in cover of pure gold and gems, which Lord Ashburnham sold for £10,000, and which is now in the possession of the Pierpoint Morgan Library. Many of the covers are of great beauty and interest, none the less so for the process of building-up which they have undergone in long-past centuries. The normal course of things seems to have been as follows: A monastery owned a precious tenth-century "textus," or manuscript of the Gospels; it also possessed an ivory "pax," or tablet carved with one or more scenes from the life of Christ, of, perhaps, a century later, and jewels

49. A PAGE OF LYDGATE'S "SIEGE OF TROY"

English MS. About 1420 A.D.

[*To face page* 112

50. A PAGE OF THE "COLONNA] MISSAL"
Italian MS. About 1517 A.D.

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which had been bequeathed to the church for the enrichment of the altar books and reliquaries. A century later still it occurred to some rich abbot to have the second made into a cover for the first; and he would call in some jeweller or metal-worker from Cologne or Liège, who would encase the ivory tablet in a richly jewelled metal frame, and make the whole into a cover to protect the manuscript.

Often, therefore, as in the case of some of these examples, the manuscript, the ivory or enamel centre, and the jewelled or chased borders are of different centuries. But in nearly all cases the result of the joint work of the carver and the goldsmith is of singular richness and beauty. One of the finest has for its centres two plaques of twelfth-century Limoges enamel, its background is of silver stamped from dies of the thirteenth century, whilst surrounding these are figures of saints in ivory, the whole being enclosed in a border of finely carved and gilt wood. Another is a "Gospel Book" in a German hand of the twelfth century, encased in a cover from which the central ornament on one side has disappeared, but of which the heavy borders of gilt copper enriched with Limoges enamels, representing the Apostles, the Virtues, etc., are intact. The most important example consists of the double cover of a manuscript which has become separated from its binding. It belonged at one time to Samuel Rogers, and later to Mr. Bateman, at whose sale it was acquired by Lord Crawford. The ivory carvings, which serve as panels, are of the finest workmanship of the tenth century; the metal work, which is also very fine, was probably executed at Trier, which was for a long period the great rival of Cologne in the realm of ecclesiastical art and culture. Many of the other examples in the collection bear indications of having been executed, or preserved, in the "stately tower of Trier," while Cologne and Liège can claim an equal share.

The jewels with which many of the covers are enriched form a very varied collection. There are a number of ancient Roman gems, both in intaglio and cameo. One, cut on red jasper, represents Hermes wearing a chlamys and holding the caduceus, copied from an antique Greek statue resembling the Farnese Hermes in the British Museum. Two of the covers have had fitted at each of the four corners large rock crystals in claw settings, beneath which are to be seen relics of saints or martyrs, so that the volumes partake of the character of reliquaries. The filigree and repoussé work in general is very chaste.

We have already greatly exceeded the number of pages which we had allotted to ourselves for the purpose of this hurried glance at the contents of the library, and yet only the fringe of a few of the most important collections have been touched upon in the most superficial way, whilst many sections have had to be passed over entirely. We hope, however, that these hurriedly written and necessarily discursive notes may serve the purpose we had in view, of conveying some idea of the importance of this carefully chosen collection of the world's literary masterpieces, in the earliest and best editions, many of which are in the finest possible condition and state of preservation.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS.

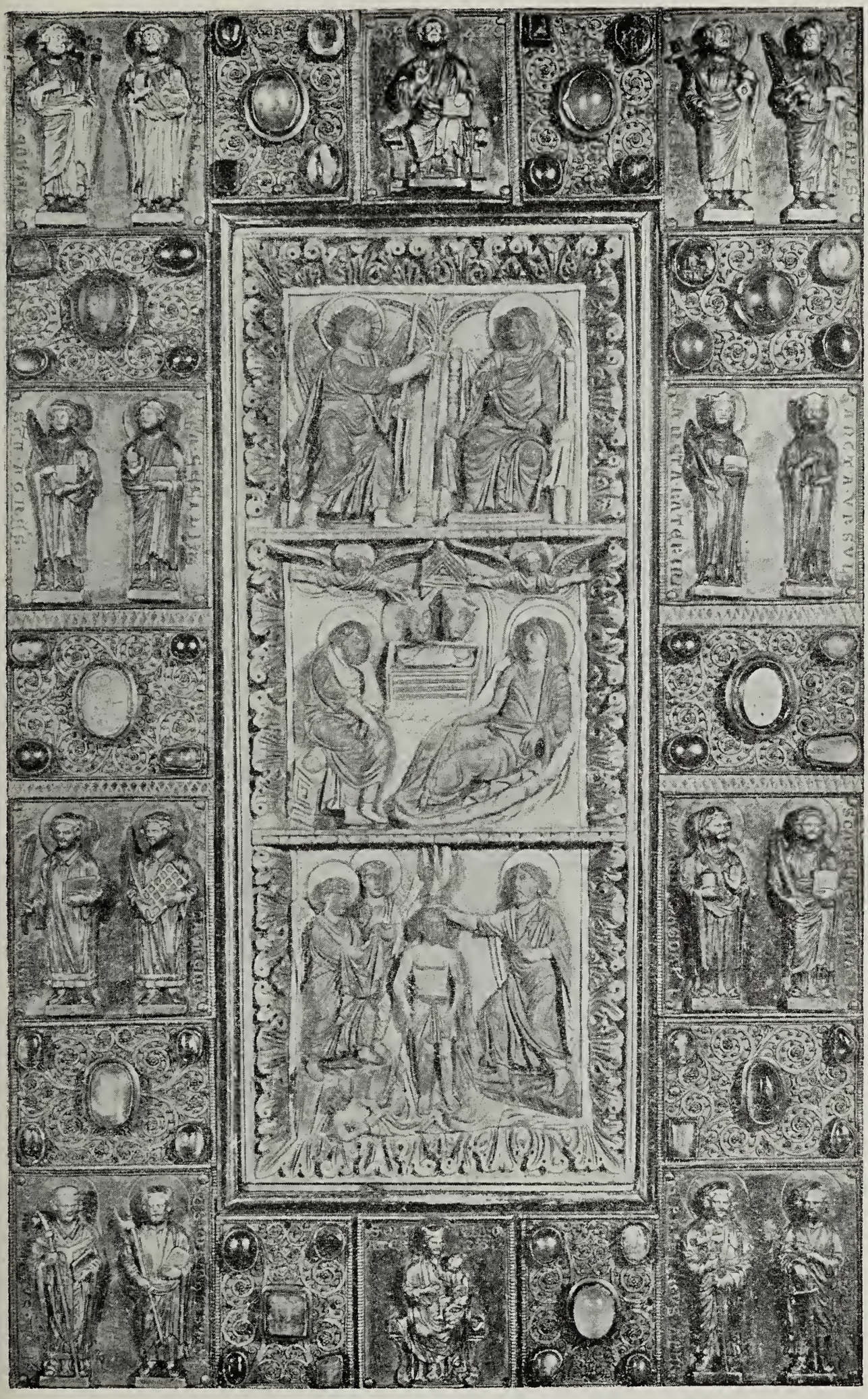
We cannot conclude this brief review of the history of the library without some reference to the ever-increasing appreciation of the institution and its work which has found expression in the numerous gifts and bequests of books, by which its collections have been so greatly enriched. As evidence of this, it needs only to be stated, that since the inauguration of the library, upwards of forty thousand volumes have been added to its shelves from this source alone. A complete list of the names of these benefactors will be found printed as an Appendix, in which there are 709 Individual Donors, and 302 Institutions.

There are certain names in the list which call for more than this passing reference.

The name which stands at the head of the list, and which rightly dominates it, is that of Mrs Rylands, who from the day of the inauguration of the library in 1899 until her death in 1908, was tireless in her efforts to improve the equipment of her foundation, and to add to its treasures. During those years Mrs. Rylands must have spent something like two hundred thousand pounds upon additions to her original gift.

Dr. Thomas Windsor, of Manchester and Great Budworth, was a devoted friend of the library and of its librarian from the time of its inauguration, and never visited the library without bringing in his pocket some bibliographical rarity with which to enrich our collection. At his death he bequeathed to the library nearly the whole of his books, numbering several thousands of volumes, greatly to the enrichment of our collections on many sides.

Mr. R. D. Darbyshire from time to time presented a large



51. ONE OF TWO JEWELLED COVERS OF A GOSPEL BOOK

10th to 12th Cent.

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52. JEWELLED BINDING WITH CRYSTALS AT THE FOUR CORNERS ENSHRINING RELICS

12th Cent.

[*To face page* 115

number of rare pamphlets, classical, and other works of a general character.

Mr. George H. Hankinson, of Manchester and Altrincham, bequeathed under his will 150 volumes of historical and topographical works, which were welcome additions to those sections of the library. The Misses Hankinson later presented to the library, in memory of their brother, his manuscript genealogical and topographical collections, in ten folio volumes, dealing with the history of Altrincham, Hale, Bowdon, and of Lancashire and Cheshire generally, which were the result of many years of careful investigation, and form a most valuable contribution to our local history.

The Reverend D. A. de Mouilpied gave from time to time during his lifetime, some five hundred volumes of Huguenot literature, many of them of great rarity. They were given as a mark of gratitude for the help and inspiration which the library, both by reason of its atmosphere and contents, had so often afforded.

Mr. Thomas J. Wise, of Hampstead, has been a most generous friend, and has presented a large number of his privately printed reprints of unique Browning, Borrow, Dante, and kindred literature.

In 1917 Mrs. Emmott, of Birkenhead, generously presented a collection of three hundred volumes, dealing with Roman law, comparative law, and jurisprudence, in memory of her late husband, Professor Emmott of Liverpool University.

Mrs. Bedale made a gift of 600 Sumerian tablets from Drehem and Umma, in memory of her late husband, the Reverend C. L. Bedale, whose death in 1919 inflicted such a serious loss on Manchester, and on Assyriology in general.

Miss Horniman's gifts to the library have been of exceptional interest to the students of the history of the modern drama. They consisted of ten volumes of newspaper and other literary cuttings which deal with the Irish National Theatre from its inception in 1913 down to 1918, and of seventeen similar volumes which deal with her own courageous enterprise in Manchester from the time of her taking over the Gaiety Theatre.

A large collection of books, pamphlets and periodicals connected with the Anti-Slavery movement, from the library of the late Mr. H. G. Wilson, M.P. for Sheffield, were presented to the library by his executors, Miss Helen Wilson and Mr. A. C. Wilson.

Mr. A. C. Wilson also presented a large collection of pamphlets and other literature dealing with the question of Disestablishment, including a set of the Liberation Society's publications.

Sir Lees Knowles recently gave a bound set of the "Times" for the period covering the Great War, in thirty-three volumes, a large number of volumes of Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, and parliamentary reports, which were a most useful addition to our shelves.

The most important bequest of all was that of the late Dr. Lloyd Roberts, who had taken a great interest in the library from its inauguration, and under his will gave the librarian authority to select from his large collection of books whatever he considered would be of interest in the building up of our collections. As a result the library was enriched by some five thousand volumes, including some hundreds of great historic interest as having belonged to Grolier, Maioli, Canevari, Margaret de Valois, and a host of other historic personages. The bequest also gave us a fine collection of the editions of Sir Thomas Browne's "Religio Medici," and the fifteen earliest editions of Sir Samuel Garth's poem "The Dispensary," in addition to many original editions of Modern English writers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

This sketch of the history of the library would be obviously incomplete without some description of the building in which it has been so appropriately housed, and which is regarded by competent authorities as one of the finest specimens of modern Gothic architecture to be found in this or in any country.

It may be said therefore, that Manchester has been enriched architecturally by this cathedral-like building in Deansgate, "in whose face," to use Ruskin's words, "is reflected the lamp of beauty."

If a building awakens nothing more than admiration for the skill displayed in its construction, and its ornamentation, it is more properly to be regarded as an example of craftsmanship, than as a work of art. If, however, it evokes within us feelings of emotion, as this building does, then it may be regarded as a work of art.

In the designing of this building Mr. Basil Champneys has been guided by the principles enunciated in the "Seven Lamps" by John Ruskin, to whose eloquence the Gothic revival was partly due, and as a

53. THE MAIN LIBRARY

[*To face page* 116

54. THE EAST CLOISTER

[*To face page* 117

result we have an example of the warm mingling of the past and the present, for the delight and edification not only of the present generation but of posterity. It is a page of history, that he who runs may read.

The special requirements of the building, which were necessary in order to fulfil generally the intention of the founder, dictated, to a very considerable extent, its general style and conformation.

The form and style selected was that of a college library in the later Gothic, but the scope of the undertaking was obviously more extensive than that of any known example. There were special requirements to be fulfilled which college libraries do not include. In the first place, a very large number of books had to be accommodated since provision was to be made for 100,000 volumes. Three large rooms had to be provided, one specially near the entrance, for the purpose of lectures, and two smaller rooms for council and committee purposes ; a suite of rooms for the librarian, near the entrance, and in close communication with the principal library ; rooms for unpacking, and the other necessary offices and workrooms ; a caretaker's house, detached from, but in close communication with the library ; accommodation for the engines and dynamos for electric light, residences for the engineers and an extensive basement for hot-water warming, ventilation and storage.

It was urged upon the architect that the vestibule should be of very considerable size and importance, and the main staircase ample and imposing. A further obvious requirement was that the building should be made, as far as possible, fireproof. Though when it was designed there was no idea that the collection of books would be of so high a value as that to which, by the purchase of the Althorp Library, it attained, it seemed desirable that risks from fire should be, as far as possible, minimised ; and owing to the close proximity of large warehouses, the situation suggested an element of danger to the fabric and its contents. Stone-vaulting, especially if the usual timber weather-roof can be dispensed with, is as safe a mode of building as can be used. As the position made it impossible that any but the steepest roof could be rendered visible, and there was therefore no loss of architectural effect involved, timber roofs were omitted over almost the whole of the building. The stone-vaulting has been covered with concrete, brought to a level and then covered with asphalt.

Another condition which had to be taken into account was the

existence of ancient lights on almost all sides of the site. This consideration to a large extent dictated the general conformation of the building. The most important lights being opposite to the main front, the more lofty features, the high towers, are set back at a considerable distance from the frontage line, resulting in securing architectural character out of a mere practical necesssity, and for the same reason the side walls of the boundary lines are generally kept low.

Such were the conditions under which the architect had to work, and in the estimation of those competent of expressing an opinion upon the subject, Mr. Basil Champneys has succeeded in designing a building, than which no finer has been erected in this or in any other country during the present generation.

Nine years was the library in building, but the cause of the delay is not far to seek when once within its walls. It is so large and so very elaborately decorated, and the internal fittings are so perfect of their kind, that even a period of nine years seems none too long for the completion of such a work. It is not too much to say, that stone-mason, sculptor, metal-worker, and wood-carver, have conspired, under the direction of the architect, to construct a casket in every way appropriate to the priceless collection of treasures which it was intended to enshrine.

CLOISTERED CORRIDORS.

The principal and only conspicuous front of the site faces Deansgate, one of the chief thoroughfares of Manchester; and on either side the site is bounded by two narrow streets: Wood Street and Spinningfield, both containing buildings of considerable height. With a view to obtain adequate daylight for the library itself, to avoid unnecessary interference with the rights of adjoining owners, and to secure quiet, the library is placed on the upper floor, some thirty feet from the pavement level, and is set back about twelve feet from the boundary line at the sides. On the lower floor on either side a beautiful stone-vaulted cloistered corridor, which gives access to the ground-floor rooms, occupies the remaining space, and is kept low, some nine feet internal height, so as to allow of ample windows above it for lighting the ground-floor rooms, which are about twenty-one feet high.

The main entrance is from Deansgate, aud the whole of the front

55. THE MAIN STAIRCASE

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56. SECTION OF THE MAIN LIBRARY, SHOWING A READING ALCOVE

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is occupied by a spacious stone-vaulted vestibule, the ceiling of which is carried on graceful shafts, the embodiment of rectitude, which soar aloft to meet in the stone work of its fan vaulting. These are placed at unequal intervals, the greatest width being given to the central passage. Above part of the vestibule are placed the principal librarians' rooms. The vestibule floor is considerably below that of the ground-floor rooms, and a short flight of wide steps leads up the centre, and parts towards left and right, leading to the ground-floor level, and giving access to the cloistered corridors, whence the ground-floor rooms are entered.

VESTIBULE.

From the vestibule level stairs on either side descend to the basement. The basement may also be reached from the ground-floor landing. A wide staircase leads to the first floor, giving immediate access to the librarians' rooms and to the main library. This staircase is crowned by a lantern, contained in an octagonal tower on the left side of the main front, around which a narrow gallery runs. It is stone-vaulted throughout, the height from vestibule floor to top of lantern being fifty-nine feet. The staircase leads into a vestibule opening to the library. This vestibule occupies one of the larger towers, and the vaulted ceiling is some fifty-two feet from the first floor.

MAIN STAIRCASE.

The ground floor contains one large lecture room, one smaller lecture room, and the council chamber, which occupy the portion of the building under the library nearest to Deansgate. These rooms are panelled in oak and have ceilings of modelled plaster. Behind these, the ground floor is divided by a vaulted cross corridor, which gives access to two large rooms in the rear of the main building, still under the library. These rooms, which are in communication, and around which a gallery runs, are fitted and shelved to give accommodation for about 40,000 volumes. In addition to the shelving accommodation they provide a welcome retreat for students engaged in special research work, to whom freedom from interruption is a boon.

GROUND FLOOR.

Behind these rooms, and in communication with them, and with a hydraulic lift running from the basement to the upper floors, are service rooms, connected with the entrance from Wood Street, and these again communicate with a basement co-extensive with the main build-

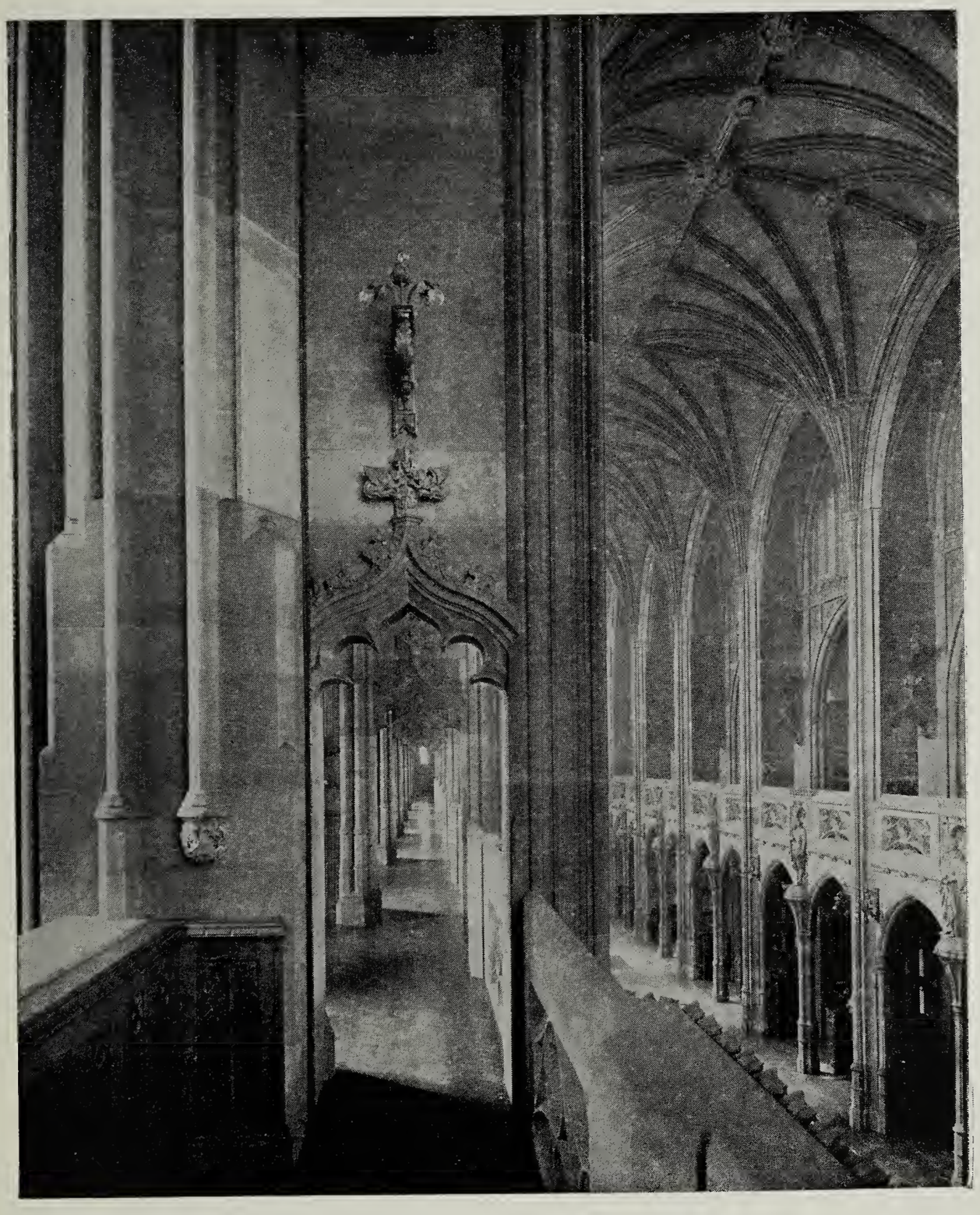
ings. Behind is a large chamber on the basement level, in which are placed the engines and dynamos for the electric lighting.

LIBRARY FLOORS.

On the first floor, with direct access from the main staircase and with a door opening into the library, is the principal librarians' department, consisting of a small vestibule and two rooms. These rooms have modelled plaster ceilings divided by oak ribs, and are fitted throughout in oak and bronze.

The library consists of a central corridor, twenty feet wide, and 125 feet long, terminating in an apse at the end farthest from Deansgate. These together give an extreme length of 148 feet. The central hall is forty-four feet from the floor to the vaulted ceiling, and is throughout groined in stone. It is divided into eight bays, one of which is on one side occupied by the main entrance, while the rest open into reading recesses.

There are, therefore, on this floor fifteen recesses, or studies, occupied by book-cases. Coextensive with the end bay on either side are projections to the limits of the boundary of the site, which form, as it were, transepts to the building. On the Wood Street side the space obtained by this projection is added to the recess, and gives on both floors increased space for books of reference. On the Spinningfield side the extra space forms separate rooms, that on the lower level being the "Map Room," and that on the higher or gallery level containing the "Early Printed Book Room." The recess opposite to the main entrance gives access to a cloak-room, and to a separate room of considerable size, the "Bible Room." Above this, contained in an octagonal tower, is the "Aldine Room." The apse at the end is lined with book-cases, and adjoining it is, on the one side, the entrance to the lift-room and the "Periodical Room." The latter is a stone-vaulted and panelled chamber, beneath which are the photographic rooms. On the other side of the entrance to the apse is a service-room and a spiral staircase for attendants. Two staircases, one at either end of the main library, lead from the lower to the upper floor. The upper or gallery floor is arranged on somewhat similar lines to the lower. A gallery runs completely round the central space, giving access to the book recesses and other rooms. The reading spaces on both floors have bay windows ; on the lower floor the ceilings of the recesses are of oak ribs and modelled plaster ; on the upper floor they are vaulted.



57. GALLERY CORRIDOR IN THE MAIN LIBRARY

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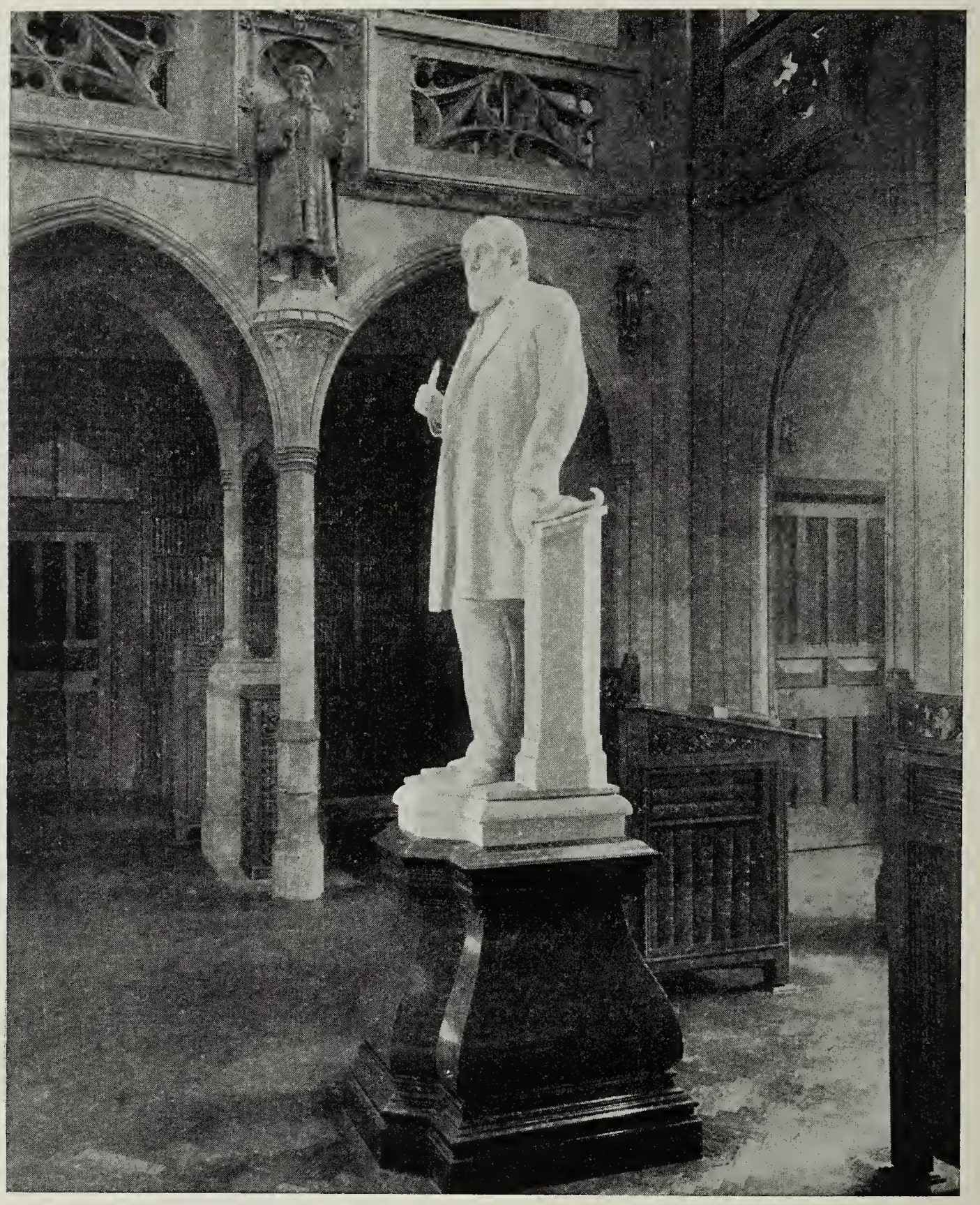

58. STATUE OF JOHN RYLANDS IN THE MAIN LIBRARY

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The two tiers of chambers together reach to a height of about thirty feet, and leave space above for a large clerestory beneath the main vaulting.

At the rear of the building is a house for the caretaker, separated from, but in immediate connection with the main building. Adjoining the caretaker's house is a spiral staircase which leads to all the floors of the main building, and under the house are the boilers and furnace for the heating apparatus.

MATERIAL OF BUILDING.

The material used is mainly stone from quarries in the neighbourhood of Penrith. That used for the interior throughout is Shawk, a stone that varies in colour from grey to a delicate tone of red. Much care has been used in the distribution of the tints, which are, for the most part, in irregular combination. Many of the stones show both colours in a mottled form and serve to bring the tints together. As, however, towards the completion of the building it proved impossible to obtain a sufficient quantity of mottled stone, the main vaulting of the library had to be built in a way that gives a more banded effect than had originally been contemplated.

STATUARY AND CARVING.

Appropriate carvings decorate the several parts of the exterior. Above the centre of the doorway are the initials "J. R.," with, on the left hand, the arms of St. Helens, the birthplace of Mr. Rylands, and on the right the combined arms of the Rylands and Tennant families, Mrs. Rylands belonging to the latter. Different parts of the front elevation also display the arms of several universities: Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, London, the Victoria University, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dublin, the Royal University of Ireland, together with those of Owens College, Manchester.

Facing the main doorway in the vestibule is a symbolic group of statuary, carved in the stone employed throughout the interior of the building. The group is intended to represent Theology, Science, and Art. Theology, the central standing figure of a woman, clasps in her left hand the volume of Holy Writ, and with her right hand directs Science, in the guise of an aged man seated, and supporting in his hand a globe, over which he bends in study and investigation. On the left-hand side of Theology is the seated figure of a youthful metal-worker, as representing Art; he has paused in his work of fashioning

a chalice, and with upturned face listens to the words which fall from the lips of Theology. The lesson which this group is designed to symbolize and teach is, that Science and Art alike derive their highest impulses and perform their noblest achievements only as they discern their consummation in religion. The sculptor of the group was Mr. John Cassidy, of Manchester.

By the side of the western stairway are the arms of the city of London; by the eastern those of the city of Liverpool.

A series of portrait statues, designed by Mr. Robert Bridgeman, of Lichfield, has been arranged so as to represent many of the most eminent men of different countries and ages in the several departments of literature, science, and art. These are placed, for the most part, in pairs, marking both correspondences and contrasts in character and achievement. The statues, to the number of twenty, are ranged in niches along the gallery front. Those at the two end galleries represent the chief translators of the Bible into English; statues of John Wiclif and William Tindale being placed at the north end; whilst facing them, at the south, are: Myles Coverdale and John Rainolds, the great Puritan scholar who originated the revision of 1611, commonly known as "King James's Version."

The rest of the statues are arranged to face each other in pairs. Beginning from the northern end of the library, and in closest proximity to the "Early Printed Book Room," and representing the art of printing, Johann Gutenberg, on the left or western side, stands opposite to William Caxton on the eastern side. Next to these Sir Isaac Newton and John Dalton stand for Science. The connection of Dalton with Manchester, as well as his eminence as a natural philosopher, renders the introduction of his statue in this place especially appropriate. Herodotus, the "Father of History," is opposite to Gibbon, historian of the "Decline and Fall." Next to these, Philosophy, ancient and modern, is represented by Thales of Miletus, and Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam. Two pairs of statues represent Poetry: Homer opposite to Shakespeare, and Milton to Goethe. The chief phases of the Protestant Reformation are symbolized by Luther and Calvin, whilst John Bunyan and John Wesley stand for British Evangelical theology.

The twenty statues just enumerated are supplemented by a series of pictured effigies in the two stained-glass windows, designed and

wrought by Mr. C. E. Kempe, of London. Each window contains twenty figures, taken, wherever possible, from contemporary sources. Thus the whole number—statues and pictures— present, in the sixty personages delineated, no inadequate suggestion of all that is greatest in the intellectual history of mankind. STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS.

The great north window is symbolical of Theology. The upper compartments in the centre contain representations, according to the accepted conventions of sacred art, of Moses and Isaiah for the Old Testament, and of the Apostles John and Paul for the New Testament. Below these are figures of the four great Fathers of the Church : Origen, St. Chrysostom, St. Jerome, and St. Augustine. On the left hand the upper divisions represent Mediæval Theology, in the persons of St. Anselm, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Duns Scotus ; the lower divisions represent the Theology of the Reformation, by portraits of Erasmus, Beza, and Melanchthon. On the right hand : the upper compartments represent the age subsequent to the Reformation, in the persons of the Anglican Richard Hooker, the Puritan Thomas Cartwright, and the Jurisconsult and Theologian, Hugo Grotius ; the lower compartments represent the philosophical and critical side of a later Protestant Theology by portraits of Bishop Butler, author of "The Analogy," the American Jonathan Edwards, Metaphysician and Calvinistic Divine, and F. E. D. Schleiermacher, precursor of modern German critical thought.

The south window represents Literature and Art. Philosophy occupies the central division, in which the upper compartments exhibit the effigies of Plato, Aristotle, Lucretius, and Cicero, among the ancients ; the lower compartments, those of Descartes, Locke, Kant, and Hegel, among the moderns. On the left the great Moralists of the ancient and modern world are represented in the upper compartments by Socrates, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius ; in the lower compartments, by Dr. Johnson, William Wordsworth, and Thomas Carlyle. The right hand division is dedicated to Poetry and Art, of which the selected representatives are : in the upper compartments Æschylus, Raphael, and Beethoven—Poetry, Painting, Music—corresponding, in the lower compartments, with Dante, Michel Angelo, and Handel.

The main design of the library in its bearing upon philosophy,

ethics, and intellectual culture is further illustrated by a series of Latin mottoes, culled from many sources, and carved on ribbon scrolls between the windows of the clerestory. A printer's device is placed below each motto. The mottoes are as follows :— LATIN MOTTOES.

East side (right hand), from the Deansgate end :—

Otium sine litteris mors est.
Nemo solus sapit.
Tendit in ardua virtus.
Integros haurire fontes.
Est Deus in nobis.
Humani nihil alienum.
Nescia virtus stare loco.
O magna vis veritatis.
Quod fugit usque sequar.
Per nos, non a nobis.
Veritatis simplex oratio est.
Omnia mutantur, nihil interit.
Securus judicat orbis terrarum.
Non multa, sed multum.

West side (left hand), from the Apse :—

Perpetui fructum donavi nominis.
Tolle, lege.
Turris fortissima nomen Domini.
Nescit vox missa reverti.
Nullius in verba magistri.
Abeunt studia in mores.
Possunt quia posse videntur.
Vivere est cogitare.
Ratio quasi lux lumenque vitæ.
Credo ut intelligam.
Lex sapientis fons vitæ.
Sapere aude : incipe.
Virtus repulsæ nescia sordidæ.
Quod verum est meum est.

The rooms are panelled throughout in Dantzig oak. The floors are of polished oak blocks. The whole of the metal work, such as the gates, railings, coil cases, electric fittings, etc., were carried out in wrought gun-metal and bronze by Messrs. Singer, of Frome, Somerset. As has been already pointed out, the building is almost entirely vaulted in stone, but where this has not been admissible, fireproof construction is used after Messrs. Hanan & Royers' system, the main floors being of a double thickness of fireproof, with space between. The heating is by batteries of hot-water pipes through which air is passed after filtration. The filtration of the air is effected by drawing it in through ducts, and passing it through screens loaded with coke, over which water sprays are constantly playing. In this way the particles of dust with which the air is impregnated are removed. The vitiated air is extracted through ducts placed at the highest points of the various rooms, which lead up to central chambers, in which powerful electrical fans are constantly running at a high speed. Gas, the most fatal thing in a library, has been completely excluded, the lighting throughout the building being by electricity.

FITTINGS, VENTILATION, ETC.

The system of the book-cases may be briefly described as follows: large sheets of plate glass, some of which are nine feet nine inches by two feet, are contained in gun-metal frames about one inch square. The exclusion of dust, so prevalent in Manchester, is provided for by rolls of velvet made elastic by the insertion of wool, which, when the doors are closed, are pressed between the door and a fillet. The arrangements for locking are somewhat elaborate. A key releases a trigger, which cannot be grasped until it is released. The trigger works espagnolette bolts, which shoot upwards and downwards at the top and bottom of the frame with intermediate clasps at the side. The internal fittings of the book-cases are of Dantzig oak, the shelves, which are panelled in order to secure the maximum of strength with the minimum of weight, and to prevent warping, are made easily adjustable by means of Tonk's fittings, which have been specially carried out in gun-metal to secure greater strength. The cases for large folios are fitted with adjustable, felt-covered, steel rollers, in which the volumes are placed on their sides, and can be inserted or withdrawn with ease, and with very little friction upon the binding, a matter of no small importance,

BOOK-CASES, SHELVES, ETC.

when the character of the bindings and the weight of the books are considered.

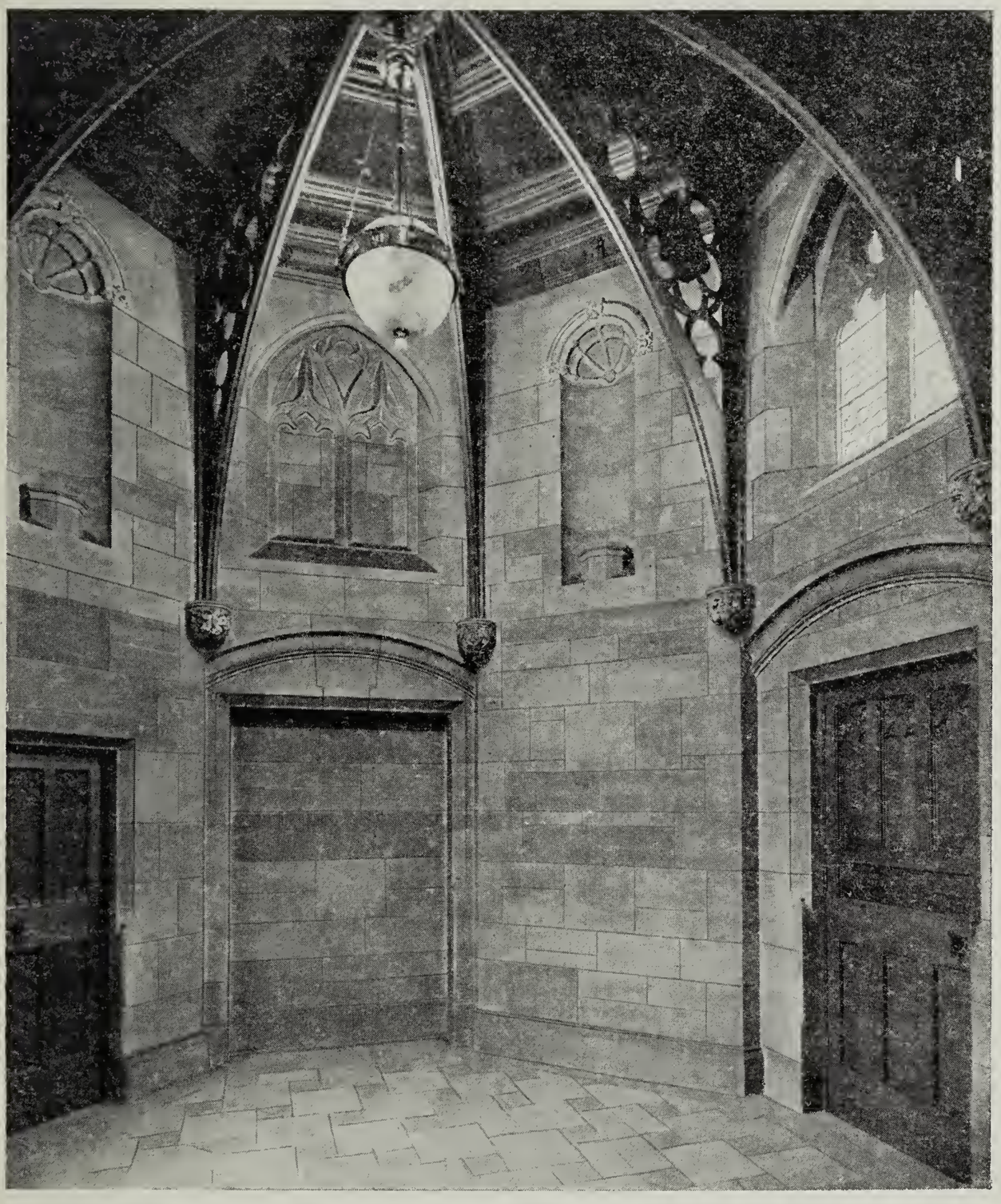
EXTENSION OF THE BUILDING.

Admirable as the building was from the architectural point of view, it became evident within a few months of the opening of the library that adequate provision had not been made for the administrative requirements of such an institution, or for the growth and development of its collections.

Representations were consequently made to Mrs. Rylands, who, with her usual readiness to listen to any proposals which were calculated to increase the usefulness and efficiency of her foundation, at once undertook to equip two large book-rooms at the rear of the building, in one of which the manuscripts were later housed, and to furnish the basement with shelves. At the same time she caused inquiries to be made as to the possibility of acquiring land to provide for future extension. Unfortunately, the owners of the property adjoining the library were either unwilling to sell, or would only sell at a price which was prohibitive, so that the matter for the time being had to remain in abeyance.

No further action was taken until 1907, when a block of property, covering an area of 476 square yards, situated at the side of the library but not adjoining it, was purchased by Mrs. Rylands, for the purpose of erecting thereon a store-building on the stack principle, in the absence of a more suitable site. Mrs. Rylands was at that time in a rapidly failing state of health, and death intervened before the arrangements in pursuance of her intentions could be completed, or her testamentary wishes with regard to them could be obtained.

Beyond the clearance of the site nothing further had been done towards the utilisation of this land, when in 1909 circumstances arose which rendered such considerations unnecessary, since the governors were offered one plot of land at the rear of the library and immediately adjacent, and after somewhat protracted negotiations they were able to acquire not only that plot but also nine others, covering an area of nearly 1200 square yards. This was a source of great relief, for it provided not only for the future extension of the library, to meet the normal growth of its collections for at least a century, but at the same time it removed an element of great risk due to the proximity of some very dangerous property, parts of which were stored with highly in-



59. OCTAGON AT END OF CORRIDOR IN NEW WING

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60. LIBRARIAN'S WORK-ROOM

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flammable material. It was also possible to create an island site of the library buildings, by arranging that an open space should be left between the new wing and the nearest of the adjoining property.

These purchases were completed in 1911, and a scheme for the utilization of the newly acquired site was prepared, in which, briefly stated, the specified requirements to be met were as follows :—

One of the most urgent needs was accommodation for book-storage. This was to be provided by means of stacks of enamelled steel, divided into floors of a uniform height of 7ft. 6in., in order that every shelf should be within reach, without the aid of ladders.

In the matter of provision for administrative work the library was very deficient, with the result that much of the work had to be carried on under conditions which were far from satisfactory. This was to be remedied by the inclusion of: (*a*) an accessions-room, where the books could be received, checked, registered, and otherwise dealt with preparatory to their handling by the cataloguers; (*b*) a binding-room, where the work of preparation for the binder could be carried out, and where repairs to valuable books and manuscripts could be effected under proper supervision by an imported craftsman, so as to obviate the risk involved in their removal to the binder's workshop; (*c*) a room for the assistant secretary, where the secretarial work could be carried out under proper conditions, and where the numerous account books could be kept together, and provision made for their safe custody.

In the original building no special arrangements had been made for the custody of manuscripts, since the initial stock included but a handful of such volumes. When the Crawford collection came to be transferred to the library by Mrs. Rylands, the only accommodation available was on the ground floor, where there was little natural light. Therefore, a new adequately lighted and specially equipped room was urgently needed to provide for the development of this rapidly increasing department of the library. Adjoining the manuscript-room a work-room was essential for the shelving of the necessary reference books, such as catalogues of manuscripts in other libraries, and the collection of works on palæography and diplomatic.

Hitherto no provision had been made for the staff in the way of common-rooms, and it was proposed that two such rooms should be provided, one for the men and the other for the women assistants, to

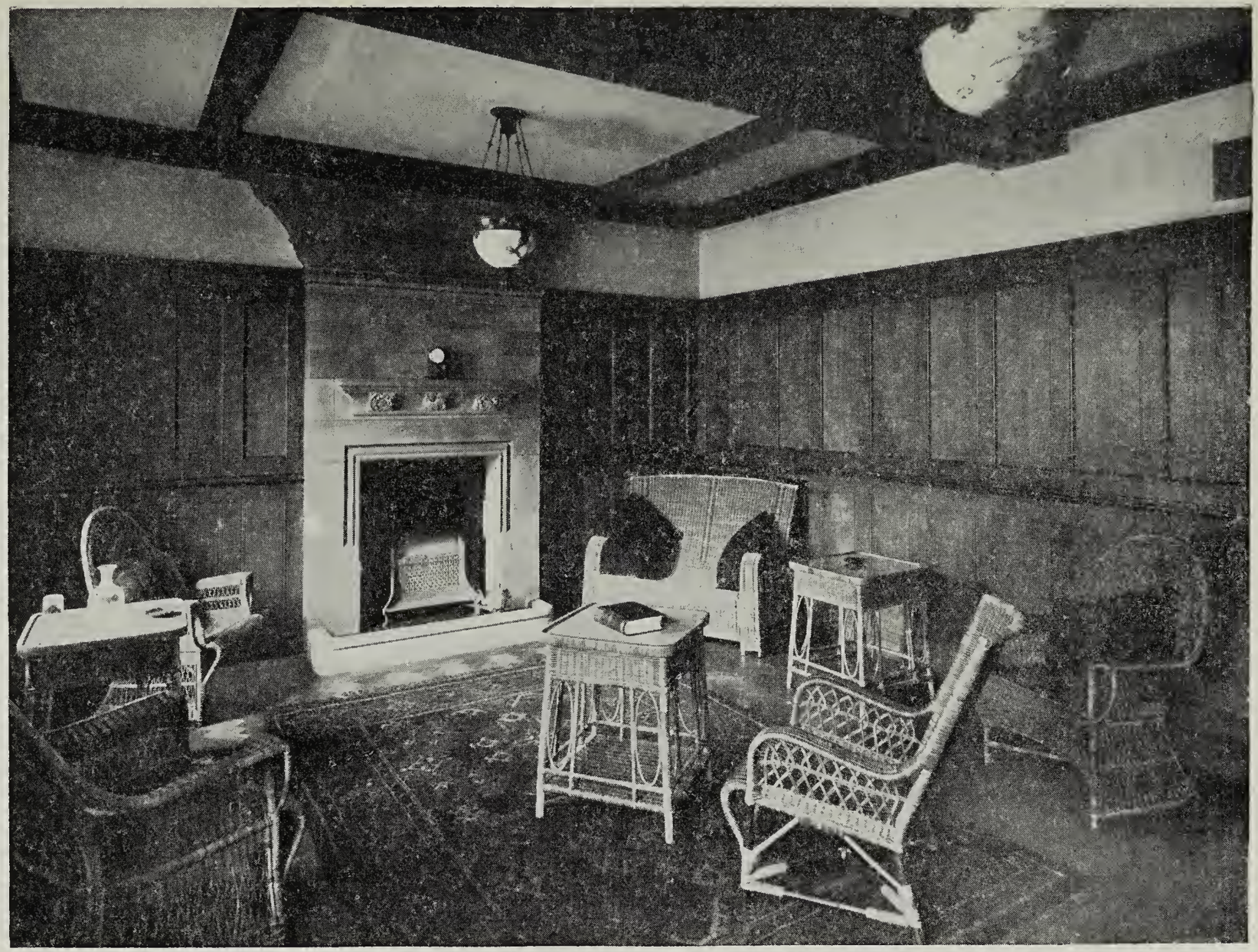
serve as rest-rooms during the intervals between periods of duty. It was also proposed that a work-room should be provided in close proximity to the main reading-room, where the librarian could, when necessary, escape the constantly increasing interruptions to which he has properly to submit when in his official room. Here also it was proposed to make provision for the storage of all library plans and official documents. A room was also needed for the storage of the publications issued by the library.

Another need which was making itself felt was additional accomodation for readers, and this, it was felt, could best be met by the provision of a new reading-room reserved for special research, similar to the inner room in the British Museum, where specially rare books could be consulted under proper supervision. The proposal was to place this room at a point of the site farthest from Deansgate, on the top of the large stack building, so as to provide the lightest and quietest room of the suite, where readers would be able to work in comfort surrounded by the general reference works arranged on open shelves, and at the same time be free from the distractions which are inevitable in the more public part of the library.

Communication between all the floors of the original building and the new wing was to be obtained by means of a new automatic electric lift, placed between the two sections of the building, and the various departments were also to be linked up by means of an internal system of telephones.

The experience gained during the twelve years of working had revealed the fact that the heating and ventilation systems were by no means satisfactory. It was considered advisable, therefore, to overhaul the installation with a view of securing much greater efficiency, whilst at the same time providing for the increased requirements of the extended range of buildings under contemplation.

One grave mistake which had been made in the original scheme of ventilation, which was on the " plenum " system, was to place the air inlets and fans at the pavement level in the side streets, which are always more or less foul. One of the first requirements, therefore, in the new block, was the erection of a shaft for the intake of air at the highest possible point, where it would be less polluted than at the street level, and of a capacity sufficient to provide for the whole of the buildings, present and future.



61. ONE OF THE STAFF COMMON ROOMS

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62. A SECTION OF ONE OF THE FOUR FLOORS OF THE STEEL-STACK

[*To face page* 129]

After careful consideration by the Governors these proposals were forwarded to Mr. Basil Champneys, the architect of the original structure, with a request that he would prepare designs for the contemplated extension, in which the character and spirit of the original structure should be maintained, and in such a way that the work could be carried out in two sections.

The architect submitted his sketch plans in 1912, but it was not until the end of 1913 that work was commenced upon the first part of the scheme, which was to include all the specified provisions, except the larger stack-room and the large reading-room.

From beginning to end the matter bristled with difficulties, new problems had to be faced at every turn, such as a new system of drainage, and the reconstruction of the boiler-house to meet the requirements of the enlarged building in the matter of heating. Then the war intervened, bringing in its train new obstacles in the way of shortage of labour, and the difficulty of obtaining the necessary materials, with the inevitable result that work was at first retarded, and, for nearly eighteen months in 1918 and 1919 it was brought to a complete standstill. Fortunately, with the help of the late Sir George Macalpine, who, as Chairman of the Council of Governors and also of the Building Committee, rendered invaluable service, and of Mr. William Windsor, the surveyor, who was untiring in his efforts to expedite the work, these difficulties were surmounted one by one, until, in July, 1920, the contractors having completed their undertaking, it was with a sense of relief that the first portion of the new wing was brought into use, and the work of the library has since been greatly facilitated.

With the completion of the first part of our scheme, providing as it does shelf accommodation for an additional 150,000 volumes, much of which, it should be pointed out, has already been taken up by the accumulations of the last few years, the immediate cause for anxiety has been removed.

When, however, it is understood that the normal rate of growth during the past twenty-five years has averaged something like ten-thousand volumes per year, it will be realised that within the next decade the need for further shelf-accommodation will again become urgent, and it will be necessary to consider ways and means for carrying out the deferred part of the scheme, under which it is estimated that the requirements of the library, both in respect of book storage and

also of seating accommodation for readers, for at least the remainder of the present century have been fully anticipated.

In pre-war days the income of the library was considered to be adequate to meet not only the cost of maintenance and ordinary book purchase, but also to allow of the creation of a reserve fund from which to meet such contingencies as are represented by exceptional book purchases, dilapidations, and building extension. Such, however, have been the financial effects of the war, that an income which was considered to be ample for all purposes in 1914 is now barely sufficient to meet the current and growing needs of the institution, if it is to be kept abreast of the times ; so that the provision of anything in the nature of a reserve fund is practically out of the question, and we can only hope that some enlightened benefactor will conceive the desire of taking up the work inaugurated by Mrs. Rylands, and by so doing assist the Governors not only to carry it on in the spirit and intention of the founder, but to develop it along lines which shall yield still greater results in the stimulation of original investigation, and in the encouragement of scholarship.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF BENEFACTORS TO THE LIBRARY.

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Habana: Biblioteca Nacional.
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